



# THE VISITOR

## April Worship Notes All Are Welcome!

**We have special things planned for our  
10:45 A.M. worship services  
in the month of April.**

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>  
We Have Seen the Risen Lord**

Join us for “We Have Seen the Risen Lord”, a worship service created and led by the people of BGUMC, including both children and adults. This is a re-telling - through short-short stories, action, and song – of the people who saw Jesus after he came back from the dead! Their fear and doubt are overcome by Christ’s appearance in their lives as the Son of God, Messiah, and Lord. As with Thomas, Christ appeared again and again so that his friends could see, and seeing believe, and believing have faith. Keep your eyes open for jars of spices, walking sticks, sandals, and fishing nets!

**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>  
Holy Communion**

Morning worship will include Holy Communion. All are welcome at Christ’s Table!

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
Blessing of Donations for Bethlehem Inn**

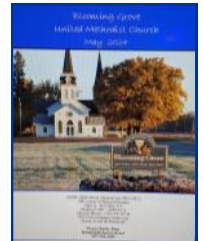
Morning worship will include a blessing of all financial donations, backpacks, and blankets collected during February and March – to then be delivered to Bethlehem Inn, Waseca.

During Lent & Easter, our congregation worked together to help support this faith-based organization that provides short-term transitional housing for homeless women and children, as well as social service connections to empower these families to improve their lives and be able to journey toward a more stable future. Thank you to all who generously provided financial support, donated new and/or gently used blankets & backpacks, donated material for – and helped make double-sided hand tied fleece blankets, and those who sewed baby quilts. Watch for final tallies and photos in our May newsletter.



## New BGUMC Pictorial Directories

Our new Blooming Grove UMC Pictorial Directories are ready for distribution – and will serve as a great way to help us stay connected as a faith community! Thank you to all who provided contact information and photos. Stop by the piano/organ area at church and check in with Judy or Chery to pick up your copy.



Below is a message from Waseca County Sheriff, Jay Dulas regarding the Waseca County wildfires on Sunday March 1st and our congregation’s prayers and support. See page 9 for our BGUMC letter of thanks to first responders.

*“As the Waseca County Sheriff and a Captain on the Waseca Fire Department, I just wanted to touch base and thank you and all of your congregation for your prayers and support! We couldn’t do what we do without all the support of our community and all of you!*

*Please touch base if there is anything we can do for any of you!*

*I look forward to your fish fry again this year!!*

*You all do a great job!! Delicious!!*


*Jay Dulas, Sheriff*

# April 2024

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

**Janesville**  
**Morning Worship.....8:15 am**

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

	1 	2	3 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	4	5	6
Pastor is Away						
7 10:15 am WV Trustees Mtg.  BG service led by the congrega- tion	8 6-8 pm WV EUMC Ad Council	9 4-6 pm Free diaper give- away at WV  7 pm Pastor Parish Relations Com- mittee Meeting at BG	10 7 pm BG Ad Board Mtg.  6 pm Acts 29 At Jesus Food in Faribault	11 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville	12	13
Pastor is Away					Pastor's Day Off	
14 Observing Communion at BG  <b><u>JV Baked Potato Fundraiser</u></b>	15	16 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	17 5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper/ WV	18	19	20
					Pastor's Day Off	
21	22	23	24 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	25 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville	26	27 10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
28  Confirmation Class in the afternoon. Time and place TBD	29	30			<b>Parament Colors</b>  April parament colors are white and gold	

## APRIL CALENDAR

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

9	Tues	7:00 pm	PPRC Meeting at BG
10	Wed	7:00 pm	BG Ad Council Meeting
11	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
14	Sun		Baked Potato Fundraiser at JV
17	Wed	5-6:30 pm	Spaghetti Supper at Waterville
25	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
28	Sun	TBD	Confirmation



9	Stephanie Fyvie
9	Jewelle Nagel
10	Dale Danks
11	Evelyn Church
13	Jackson Erickson
14	Brad Saufferer
22	Emily Church
26	Olivia Full
30	Jan Redman

1	Nathan & Jenna Carty
4	Thomas & Cheryl Wacek
5	Matt & Val Mullenbach
10	Todd & Katie Adamek
15	Ken & Tena Harren
22	Cris & Karrie VanZulien



Thank you to everyone who cleaned, set up, brought food, served food, and/or helped with clean-up after the Easter Breakfast! Your contributions are much appreciated!

## Treasurer's Report

February 26 — April 1, 2024



<b>General Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 10,435.00</b>
Bethlehem Inn	165.00
Cemetery	100.00
Cookbooks	15.00
Down the Drain	451.20
Easter Flowers	666.95

**Total Income** **11,833.15**

### Expenses

Pastor's Salary (2 months)	4,447.28
Telephone	54.38
Palm Fronds	27.00
Lift Repair	240.00
Repairs	3,090.00
Septic Pumping	365.00

**Total Paid Out** **\$ 8,223.66**

**(Net Income: + \$3,609.49)**

### Building Addition

#### Income

Restoration	\$ 6,400.00
Fish Fry	4,072.00

**Total Income** **\$ 10,472.00**

#### Expenses

Loan Payment	\$ 3,965.20
--------------	-------------

**Total Paid Out** **\$ 3,965.20**

**(Net Income: + \$6,506.80)**

Restoration Fund Balance	\$82,027.16
--------------------------	-------------

Building Addition Loan	\$246,747.42
------------------------	--------------

## Down the Drain Fundraiser

**\$2,307 of \$3,500 Estimated Project Cost Raised to-date**



After 72 years of faithful service in clean-up from countless gatherings over food and fellowship, the drain system for our BGUMC basement kitchen sinks became compromised by a combination of tree roots, corrosion, and the make-up of drain supplies that were available back in 1951 (due to raw-material shortages impacted by war-time). Our exciting solution was implemented in mid-March! It involves two individual pumps (one for each sink location) that will grind any small food particles that go into the dishwasher and that will then push the water through interior piping that will carry it to join the water flow to the new septic system. **We need your help in raising the \$3,500 needed to fund this work.** If you would like to contribute, please note "Down the Drain" on your check or offering envelope, and place your donation in the white "offering coffee pot" at the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be made out to Blooming Grove UMC. In addition, all loose change added to the "Shaker Can" at the back of the sanctuary will go to this project. Thank you, in advance, for your help!



## *He Lives!*



*Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.*

*John 20: 16-18 NIV*

Easter greetings! What better news for followers of Jesus Christ than Mary’s news, “I have seen the Lord!”? Despair, fear, and grief are quickly replaced with the incredulous news that Mary has seen Jesus—alive!

Two thousand and twenty-four years have passed since Mary shared the news of the Risen Christ. I wonder, have we misplaced the despair, fear, and grief of Jesus’ crucifixion with complacency and boredom? Yeah, I know. I’ve heard the story many, many times. Do we look more forward to the Easter dinner than worship and celebration with our church families that shows God his people are still amazed by the salvation offered through the Son?

We all know that our attitude plays a big role in how we experience the events in our living. A few people chose to be a part of our Lenten studies these past 6 weeks. Those who attended had the opportunity to consider opening our hearts and shedding the complacency of familiar stories to see Jesus as more than our Sunday School Jesus. I hope that each one of us can step out of the mundane, open our hearts to Jesus, and see him and the grace of his incredible gift of salvation in a new way.

As those who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and consider ourselves to be today’s disciples of Christ, we have work to do. That work begins with prayer and contemplation. How do I see Jesus? Who do I say Jesus is? What is the work I feel Jesus has for me to do? All important questions. The answers could show our gratitude to a God who loves us and wants us to know the abundance and grace in living the Jesus Way. Easter people, have you heard the Good News? Jesus Lives!

Alleluia,

*Pastor Kathy*



## Lenten Fish Fry News

Our March Lenten Walleye Fish Fry was a huge success this year! 302 people came through our doors to enjoy a delicious meal of fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, dinner roll, and desert. \$4,072 was raised through our free-will offering, with all proceeds going toward payment of the loan for our new south addition – built to make our church fully accessible to all.

A huge thanks goes to Brad and Tracie Spinler, and their extended family, for coordinating this event, including the preparation of all of the food.

Thank you also to those of all ages from our congregation who cleaned and completed set-up at church, baked sweet treats for dessert, fried fish, served as “fish runners”, hosted and served at the meal, and stayed afterwards for clean-up. As the saying goes - it takes a village!





## Palm Sunday

We waved our palms and sang our glad Hosannas as we told the story of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem! Jesus, who came to turn the world upside down!



## Good Friday

In our Service of Tenebrae, through scripture and song, we reflected on Christ's arrest, crucifixion, death, and placement in the tomb.

("Tenebrae" is Latin for "darkness".)

Lights were dimmed to near darkness in the

sanctuary, and after each reading, one of the candles in the candelabra was extinguished, ultimately leaving only the Christ candle lit - and then, after the final reading, and a loud crash of thunder, it too, was extinguished and carried out of the sanctuary. The setting, music, and variety of voices who shared the scripture readings, allowed all of us in attendance to have a tangible and personal placement in the stories shared that night of Christ's great sacrifice.

## Easter Sunday

We gathered in the early morning to celebrate the good news of the resurrection. Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen indeed!



## Sunday School News

On March 17<sup>th</sup> during S.S. time; we added some new handprints to the Noah's Ark room walls - new little ones including Andi, a few new older ones - Mullenbachs, Sherry & Nicole.



Also updated some "little" handprints to their now adult-version handprints. After "writing on the walls," we had a little talk about what Palm Sunday is/means (there was no S.S. on Palm Sunday -so this was a week early) in our Christian year, following it up with our own version of a Hosanna parade complete with (fake) palm

fronds, an array of musical (percussion) instruments & led throughout the church by alternating kids taking the lead as they wove their way through the whole entire church.

(Patti Ellingson)



Jerry & Patti Ellingson and family invite you to  
**Celebrate 80 years**  
**with Jerry!!!**

When: Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024

2:00pm - 4:30pm drop-in / open house

Where: 3050 197<sup>th</sup> St. East, Faribault, MN 55021

(also labeled as "Andrews Dr.")

Stone Orchard Events

north & east of Faribault, barely outside the city limits

Drop-in / open-house, but a "mini-presentation" tribute & family intro at 3:00pm



Eats: taco bar, chips 'n salsa, fresh fruit salad, BIRTHDAY CAKE!!



**Thank you to everyone who honored loved ones with  
flowers to make the Altar beautiful for Easter.**



***Katie & Emilie Adamek***

***In Honor of Blooming Grove UMC***

***Dave & Sheryl Brisel***

***In Memory of Charlie & Berniece Brisel  
In Memory of John & Margaret Schmidt  
In Memory of Betty Brisel Koppin***

***Chuck & Linda Danks***

***In Honor of Grandchildren &  
great grandchild  
In Memory of Kenneth & Opal Danks  
In Memory of Janice Danks  
In Memory of M.H. & Genevieve Losee  
In Memory of Janette Losee  
In Memory of Martha Bates***

***Patti & Jerry Ellingson***

***In Memory of Bill & Marvyl Patton  
In Memory of Luther & Ruby Ellingson  
In Memory of Fred Swansen***

***Don and Char Frankenberry***

***In Memory of Parents***

***Jake & Summer Goldsmith & Julie Sommers***

***In Memory of Adam Jensen***

***Brian & Carolyn Kanne***

***In Memory of Ray & Ruth Lemke  
In Memory of Harold Kanne  
In Honor of Faye Kanne***

***David and Jenny Kanne***

***In Honor of Faye Kanne  
In Memory of Harold Kanne***

***Deanna & Michel Kanne***

***In Memory of Grandpa & Grandma Lemke  
In Memory of Grandpa Kanne***

***Faye Kanne***

***In Memory of Harold Kanne***

***LeAnn Kanne***

***In Honor of Faye Kanne  
In Memory of Harold Kanne***

***Carol Karsten***

***In Memory of Don Karsten  
In Memory of Cindy Karsten  
In Memory of Kenny Karsten  
In Memory of Zona Karsten***

***Jerry & Kathy King***

***In Honor of Blooming Grove Members  
In Memory of Loved Ones***

***Linda & Jen Kosel***

***Justin, Kristin, Leah, Kaylee & Emery Krell  
In Memory of Bob & Joyce Krell***

***Bobbi & Luke Mathern***

***In Memory of Loved Ones***

***Keith & Shelley McColley***

***In Memory of Clayton & Marlene McColley  
In Memory of Glenn & June McColley***

***Matt & Amanda Rollins***

***Bonnie Lima***

***In Memory of Mario Lima  
In Memory of Jess & Nora Saufferer***

***Jim & Chery Southworth***

***In Memory of Roger & Glorene Southworth  
In Memory of LaVern & Vida Wendt***

***Brad & Tracie Spinler & Family***

***In Memory of Harold & Leona Minske  
In Memory of Harold & Eleanor Saufferer  
In Memory of Marissa Spinler***

***Alex & Lacey Spinler***

***In Honor of Joan Johnson  
In Memory of Jesse Spinler***

***Tom & Sherry Wacek***

***In memory of Joe & Regina Wacek  
In Memory of Ed and Arloine Bluhm***

***Cris & Karrie VanZuilen & family***

***In Honor of Jeanne Michel  
In Memory of Don Michel  
In Memory of Phil & Therese VanZuilen***



## Pastoral Care

THANK YOU!



**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.*

- For the brother of a friend of Hjordi and Judy who continues to navigate a number of difficult and overwhelming things. Also hold their friend in your prayers as he offers his support for his brother.
- For Faye, and her medical team, as she undergoes treatment for health concerns.
- For Don, as he continues recovery from a fractured shoulder – the result of being knocked down by a dog.
- For Hjordi, as she continues recovery from 3 broken ribs – the result of a fall.
- For the parents of Jake Goldsmith, both of whom are working through health concerns.
- All who have been hit this past month with ongoing bronchitis issues, sinus issues, and severe reactions to medications.
- Brandon, the cousin of Nicole Wacek, who, upon follow-up after a successful cancer surgery, has learned that cancer has returned. Also hold Brandon’s wife and their 5 children in your hearts and prayers.
- Linda, a friend of Val Mullenbach, who is recovering from numerous broken bones – the result of a recreational vehicle accident.
- The family and friends of MN United Methodist Deaconess Pamela Johnson, age 56, of Aitkin, who died unexpectedly on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Pamela was a friend of Cindy Saufferer, of BGUMC. Pamela served as a life skills trainer at Oakridge Residential Services and as a youth director. She was a lay speaker to many UMC congregations in north-central MN.
- Marlis Mahler’s niece, Tamara, of Colorado, and Tamara’s family and care team, as they work together to discern the best care path possible for Tamara.
- A student of Ryan Saufferer, and the student’s family, as they mourn the unexpected loss of the student’s sibling.
- 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.



Thank you from the Engebretson’s, especially Nolan and Emily, for the beautiful prayer shawls for the sad time during the death of our family dog, Jack. This was a hard time for all of us and we will always remember him. But it also turned into happy news about 2 weeks later, as we have a new puppy, Ben, and he helps us all through the loss of Jack. Thank you and take care,  
**Carolyn Engebretson**

Thank you for thinking of my family at this terrible time. Nothing can beat the gift of a blanket—especially a handmade one! Please give our thanks for your church group and also to you, Tracie, for thinking and praying for the Herbert family.  
**Tami LaCanne**

Thank you all for the beautiful prayer shawl! I feel like prayer and God have helped myself and my baby get through this difficult time. When I put the shawl over my baby bump I feel at peace. I can feel each and every one of your prayers. You all are amazing people. Please keep me and my unborn child in your prayers. We still have a long road ahead of us. I thank you all for reaching out to support a complete stranger through a difficult time. This is why I love the UMC and am a member myself. It is people like you and God’s strength that I know we can make it through this. Peace be with you!  
**Nichole Whitney**

Thank you for the generous gift of money, though it doesn’t take the heart break away, it does help to carry on the plans that Mitch’s family has. The plan to carry on farming and providing for the dreams of a horse in time and other things. Please continue to hold the family in your prayers. Pray for wisdom, guidance, and strength for the future.  
**Mitchell Olson family**

Thanks for doing a great job at BGUMC! Churches have historically had kitchen sink drain problems—having been a Pastor’s wife for many years I know first hand. I enjoy reading the “Visitor” each month.  
**Lois Hamilton (Wilkowske)**  
(confirmed at BGUMC in 1946 and married there in 1954)





# Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

**Mailing Address:**  
P.O. Box 171 Medford, MN 55049-0171  
**Physical location:**  
43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN  
www.bloominggroveumc.org  
Email: bloominggroveumc@gmail.com  
Check us out on Facebook

**Pastor:**  
Pastor Kathy King  
kking5@hickorytech.net  
507-382-2483



**March 10, 2024: Thank You to all emergency responders and those who provided assistance during the Waseca County wildfires on Sunday March, 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## Sent to each of the First Responder Agencies listed at the bottom of this letter

Our congregation extends heartfelt thanks for all that the members of your agency did last Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> to hold back, and extinguish, the wind-fueled wildfire that engulfed the NE corner of Waseca County and parts of Steele County. Due to the Herculean efforts of everyone involved, homes and lives were saved – none were lost. The risks, time, expertise, resources, and sheer will that were involved in fighting this fire were beyond measure. We are humbled by the selfless service of the men and women involved.

Our connection to the fire, and your work, is very personal. The NE portion of the fire was stopped just 3 miles south of our church. A number of our rural neighbors, including some from our congregation, had to evacuate their homes, returning to give thanks that the fire had been “held” just across the road from their driveways, or in their yards. Others in our congregation had their bags packed, ready to leave on a minute’s notice if the wind changed direction, but the fire was stopped before evacuation was needed. Others from our church watched and prayed with great worry as flames moved closer and closer to their neighbors’ farms. Again, the fire was stopped, and no outbuildings or animals were lost. Another person in our church family provided pasture-land as a staging area for emergency responders as the flames roared in the distance.

During our morning worship today, we listed the names of all responding agencies at the front of our sanctuary and joined together in this prayer of thanks for you...

### **Prayer for First Responders** (Adapted from “Prayer for Firefighters” by Karen Barber | 10/19/12)

**Leader:** Oh God, with heart-filled gratitude, we give thanks for the emergency responders who fought last Sunday’s wind-fueled wildfires that destroyed more than 1,600 acres in our Blooming Grove United Methodist Church rural neighborhood and threatened the homes and families of so many. We also give thanks for those who provided assistance and care to the men and women working on the front lines.

**People:** Thank you, God, for these people who are committed to public service. We are humbled by their physical and mental determination and strength. They are authentic, touchable heroes in our midst, ready to help in our times of need. We honor their ability to remain calm in times of crisis.

**Leader:** We pray your continued protecting grace upon our first responders.

**People:** Grant them Your guidance in all situations, shield them from injury, and bless them and their families with peace.

**All:** May Your Holy Spirit protect them in all of their ways. In the name of our Savior we pray. Amen

Waseca Fire Department  
Waseca County Sheriff’s Office  
Janesville Fire Department  
Waldorf Fire Department  
New Richland Fire Department  
Owatonna Fire Department  
Medford Fire Department  
Ellendale Fire Department  
Faribault Fire Department  
Morristown Fire Department  
Waterville Fire Department

Kilkenny Fire Department  
Elysian Fire Department  
MN DNR-Mankato Office  
MN DNR-St. Paul Office  
MN DNR Forestry Division, Lewiston  
US Fish and Wildlife Services,  
Washington, DC  
North Ambulance Service, Waseca  
Waseca Fire Auxiliary  
Waseca County Sheriff’s Posse  
Waseca County Emergency Management

Waseca County Land & Resources  
Waseca Police Department  
Janesville Police Department  
Steele County Sheriff’s Office  
Rice County Sheriff’s Office  
Minnesota State Patrol  
Born Well Drilling, Waseca  
Waseca County Dispatch Center  
Steele/Rice Dispatch Center  
LeSueur County Dispatch Center,  
Le Center

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

April 2024

**The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171**

**Medford, MN 55049-0171**

Physical Location:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052

(NE corner of Waseca County)

Website: [www.bloominggroveumc.org](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

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

Check us out on Facebook!

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

**Pastor Kathy King**

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

**507-382-2483**

**Join Us**

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



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

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

**Visitor Staff:**

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

26651 Elmore Avenue

Morristown, MN 55052

(507) 339-3534

[CherySouth@gmail.com](mailto:CherySouth@gmail.com)

Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

Brad Saufferer, Writer

Patti Ellingson, Writer

Cindy Saufferer, Writer

If you would rather read your copy of the Visitor online, (and in color) check us out at [www.bloominggroveumc.org](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

To unsubscribe or to be added to our email distribution list, contact [cherysouth@gmail.com](mailto:cherysouth@gmail.com)



*Easter message from Bishop Lanette Plambeck,  
resident bishop for the Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area  
of The United Methodist Church.*

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of our faith, the beacon of hope that illuminates our darkest moments and guides us through the shadows of doubt and despair.

In the resurrection of Jesus, we find the assurance that death does not have the final word, that suffering is not the end of the story, and that love triumphs over all. It is a proclamation of victory over sin and death, a testament to the enduring power of God's grace to transform hearts and lives.

As United Methodists, we are called to embody the Easter message in our lives, to be agents of justice and reconciliation, and instruments of peace in a world marred by division and strife. We are called to bear witness to resurrection hope that shines brightly in the face of adversity, offering healing to the broken-hearted, comfort to the grieving, and compassion to the marginalized.

May this Easter be a time of renewal and revival, as we embrace the joy of resurrection and the promise of abundant life. Let us live each day with the certainty that Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, and that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord.