



# THE VISITOR

**Sunday, June 4, 2023  
2:00 P.M.**

**A Prairie Lakes Parish Event  
at Waterville Evangelical UMC**

**A Time of Conversation about  
the Future of the United Methodist  
Denomination**

The leadership team of WV EUMC invites all from our Prairie Lakes Parish (Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Waterville UMCs) to a conversation about the future of our United Methodist denomination, with Cindy Saufferer, UMC Deaconess, leading. Our Southern Prairie UMC District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf will be joining the conversation as well. All are welcome!

The United Methodist denomination is in a time of significant change and transition. Our MN United Methodist Bishop, Lanette Plambeck, appointed a small task force to respond to questions about these changes in a thoughtful and transparent manner in order to help MN United Methodists better understand what is taking place (i.e. our denomination is not splitting).

Thank you to WV EUMC for providing this opportunity for folks in our parish to hear the responses of the bishop's task force, as well as background information from the United Women in Faith, and to gather together in time of conversation and reflection around these important topics.

**Sunday, June 11, 2023**

**8:15 A.M. Worship  
at Blooming Grove UMC**

**Special Guests T.P. and J.P., who serve in  
Southeast Asia**

Prairie Lakes Parish worship services on June 11<sup>th</sup> will follow our regular Summer/Fall Worship schedule. That day, the 8:15 service at BGUMC will include special guests, T.P. and J.P., serving in Southeast Asia. They will share stories of their experiences and work there. Anyone from throughout our parish is invited to join in on this special service. We also invite everyone to stay for 9:15 Brunch & Fellowship!

**Sunday, June 4**

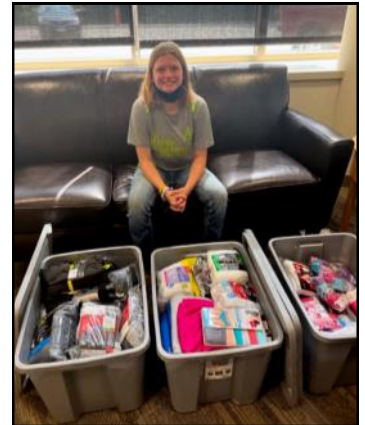
We begin our Prairie Lakes Parish Summer/Fall Worship Schedule (possible due to the more predictable and reliable driving conditions for Pastor Kathy during these months of the year, June through November

- 8:00 AM Online at Prairie Lakes Parish Facebook
- 8:15 AM Blooming Grove UMC
- 9:30 AM Waterville EUMC
- 10:45 AM Janesville UMC

**Thank You From  
Faribault Medical Center – Allina Health**  
To: Raelyn & All at Blooming Grove UMC

Thank you so much for coordinating your confirmation project around the needs of patients at Faribault Medical Center. The clothes, socks, and undergarments you donated have been such a blessing to so many! These gifts have been shared with patients found out in the cold who present to the ER with wet clothes, and also with others who have been in car accidents – and with so many more! They have also been a huge blessing to our mental health patients who end up in our ER for days and really appreciate a new change of undergarments and socks. You have brightened the days of many! This thank-you comes from the whole team of providers, nurses, techs, and staff who care for our patients and FMC. Thank you!

Dawn, Amber & Faribault Medical Center







Editor's Note: Raelyn's 2022 Community Service Confirmation Project invited us to donate new clothing items (underwear/socks to pants/shirts) - to restock the ER Clothes Closet at Faribault Medical Center. 300 items of clothing were donated: 130 for men, 110 for women, and 60 for children. Thank you to Raelyn for leading us along this new pathway of caring for our neighbors.

# June 2023

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

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

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

May 31st—June 1st  MN United Methodist Annual Conference in St. Cloud. Attendees: Pastor Kathy, Judy Maher as BGUMC lay representative, Cindy Saufferer as Deaconess.				1 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	2	3
					Morristown Dam Days	
					Pastor's Day Off	
4 2:00 pm Parish Con- versations RE Future of United Meth- odist Denomi- nations —at WV EUMC.	5	6	7	8 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV  7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	9	10
Morristown Dam Days					Bullhead Days	
					Pastor's Day Off	
11 Guest Speakers from SE Asia at BGUMC Worship. Brunch to follow	12	13 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	14 11:30 BG Prayer Brunch at Famous Dave's   <i>Flag Day</i>	15 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	16	17
Bullhead Days Parade at 1 pm Watch for EUMC Float					Medford Straight River Days Faribault Heritage Days	
					Pastor's Day Off	
18 	19 	20 6 pm Bible Conversations at Half Pint Brewery	21 	22 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV 7 pm WV holds Bible Study/ Rice Cty Jail	23	24 10—noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
					<b>Parment Colors</b>  <b>June 4      White</b> <b>June 11     Green</b> <b>June 18     Green</b> <b>June 25     Green</b>	



## Wesleyan Values



*“Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: ‘Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.’” Leviticus 19: 2*

As I consider my words for this month of June, I am preparing for our Minnesota Annual Conference gathering for 2023. I am blessed as a clergy person to know the value of gathering as the body of Christ in this way. As one who values my decision to be a United Methodist, I wonder if others ponder why or how we choose the faith community we attend or join? Do we understand the Wesleyan values that we claim when we say our membership vows?

John Wesley, the man who we understand to be the founder of our Methodist roots, focused on salvation and the connection between God’s grace, our faith, and the importance of holy living. In his preaching, writing, and living, Wesley believed and taught:

1. The doctrine of original sin and the understanding that all humanity needs to do to receive the freely given grace of God is to “hear the gospel, repent, and believe.”
2. Our faith in God leads to our salvation through God’s never-ending mercy and grace, through the saving love of Christ’s death for our sins, and through our personal faith in Jesus Christ.
3. If we are genuine in our faith, we will naturally live lives that reflect love, selflessness, and service to others.

Our denomination’s current struggles do not and should not lessen our understanding of why we chose and continue to choose to follow our Wesleyan values.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, we have the opportunity to come together in conversation at our Waterville EUMC. Waterville’s leadership is opening the conversation to everyone in our parish family. If you have questions, our Deaconess, Cindy Saufferer, and our District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf, will be there to lead and answer your questions.

We have much to celebrate in our parish. God is blessing us with new members in our Blooming Grove faith family, our beautiful Waterville sanctuary has new carpeting to welcome us in our coming together, and our Janesville faith family celebrates a successful Church School year with our children. Let us continue to see the many blessings in the beauty of God’s people and Creation as the summer beckons us to be outdoors!

Thank you for your continued support of your Pastor and Jerry! Each one of you is a gift!

It is my hope that you know how very much Jesus loves you through your faith growth and holy living!

*Let it be so,*

*Pastor Kathy*

## JUNE CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.**

- |    |      |          |   |
|----|------|----------|---|
| 4  | Sun  | 2:00 pm  | Parish Conversation RE Future of United Methodist Denomination at WV EUMC |
| 8  | Thur | 9:30 am  | Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop                               |
| 11 | Sun  | 8:15 am  | Guest speakers from SE Asia. Brunch to follow                             |
| 14 | Wed  | 11:30 am | Prayer Brunch at Famous Dave's  |
| 20 | Tues | 6:00 pm  | Bible Conversations at Brewery  |
| 22 | Thur | 9:30 am  | Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop                               |



- |    |                 |    |                     |
|----|-----------------|----|---------------------|
| 1  | Deb Maurer      | 14 | Mike Nicholson, Jr. |
| 3  | Michael Kanne   | 15 | Brian Martin        |
| 4  | Shane Yule      | 20 | Kathy King          |
| 6  | Beth Christesen | 20 | Caitlin Needham     |
| 7  | Christ Karsten  | 21 | Gil Christesen      |
| 7  | Penelope Morgan | 22 | Raelyn Janke        |
| 8  | Jenny Nicholson | 23 | Dylan Carty         |
| 14 | Dave Brisel     | 27 | Megan Schmitz       |
|    |                 | 28 | Bobbi Mathern       |
|    |                 | 29 | Tyler Morgan        |
|    |                 | 30 | Kelli Prchal        |

### Happy Anniversary

- 2 Brian & Carolyn Kanne
- 10 Alex & Page Hohertz
- 11 Ron & Carolyn Engebretson
- 14 Robert & Sharon Nelson
- 17 Dave & Sheryl Brisel
- 21 Charles & Patricia Parrish
- 23 Jerry & Kathy King



## Treasurer's Report

April 25, – May 26, 2023



<b>General Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,435.00</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Easter Flowers	68.00
Love Offering	321.95
Midwest Distribution	120.00
Mowing	100.00
Visitor	20.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$4,064.95</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor's Salary	1,959.32
Telephone	52.46
Excel Energy	97.61
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 2,109.39</b>
<b>(Net Income: + \$1,955.56)</b>	

### Building Addition

<b>Income</b>	
Restoration	\$ 700.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 700.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 3,505.13</b>
<b>(Net Income: — \$2,805.13)</b>	

Restoration Fund Balance	\$77,626.29
Building Addition Loan	\$273,208.72

## Waterville Bullhead Days - June 9 – 11

### Waterville Evangelical UMC Hamburger Stand

Would you like to enjoy Waterville's Bullhead Days celebration from a unique perspective? Feel free to give Karen Olson (Waterville EUMC) a call and volunteer to help out at one or more shifts of their church's hamburger stand! Good fellowship and fun are guaranteed! Karen's phone: 507-661-4818.

### Fit for Britt Walk/Run 2023

Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> at Shager Park – Faribault  
 1:00 – Gather. 1:30 – Walk begins.  
 Length of walk: completely optional.  
 Per Kelly Landsverk, sister of Karrie VanZuilen,  
 "We walk to remember Brittney, promote healthy lifestyles, and to remind ourselves –  
**DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!**"



I would like to thank everyone that helped me during my confirmation journey & helped me celebrate at church on May 7. I'm grateful for all the generosity, support, and welcoming as a member of Blooming Grove.  
 Raelyn Janke



**Thank you for Your Gifts and Hearts of  
Great Compassion  
Mission Giving: April 16 – May 21**

Each spring, United Methodist clergy and laity from across our state gather for Annual Conference, a two-day event filled with worship and learning experiences, mission giving opportunities, and time for conducting the business of the MN Conference of the United Methodist Church.

*Thank you to all who extended an overwhelming response to our invitation to be part of two mission giving opportunities in connection with this year's Annual Conference. Your gifts – flowing from hearts of great compassion - will bring hope and empowerment to a world in need.*

- **Love Offering: Received \$321.95 in Donations**
- **Personal Dignity Kits for Crisis Care – Received Supply Donations to make 62 Kits**

These gifts will be presented at Annual Conference (May 31 – June 1 in St. Cloud) by Judy Mahler, our lay representative, and Cindy Saufferer, Deaconess. There, they will be blessed by conference delegates and begin their journey to distribution.

**Love Offering**

This year's Love Offering will address the growing mental health needs in Minnesota, as follows:

- 60% to a grant for MN UMC Conference churches to begin or expand a mental health partnership project
- 30% to three MN nonprofits engaged in mental health education and advocacy: Mental Health Connect, Mental Health MN, and MN Association for Children's Mental Health
- 10 % to MN UMC Volunteers in Mission scholarships, which support first-time mission trip participants



**Personal Dignity Kits for Crisis Care**

In April, we began our grand experiment of collecting supplies for, and packing, Personal Dignity Kits to be distributed to folks in times of crisis through the United Methodist Midwest Distribution Center in Illinois.

It had been years since we had worked on this type of project, and we discovered that many things had

changed since then, requiring us to be flexible and pivot multiple times in our approach. Among the changes:

- In order to pass inspection at foreign borders, supplies must be provided in exact sizes specified by the Distribution Center, otherwise an entire shipping carton of kits can be rejected for one mis-sized item. Unfortunately, any of our donated items that didn't quite match these size parameters had to be held back, but Cindy Saufferer is able to deliver them to the Emma Norton Residence in St. Paul, to be given to persons who seek shelter there.
- Supplies need to be packed in a very specific format/order within freezer-grade one-gallon



Ziploc bags. Our congregation rose to these challenges with grace, patience, and good humor, and concluded the project with an outcome that was beyond our wildest imagination.

Enough supplies were donated to create 62 kits, far surpassing our initial goal of 20!





On Sunday morning, May 21<sup>st</sup>, an intergenerational group of 19 volunteers gathered in our Fireside Room to create 4-person “production-line” groups, and assemble all donated supplies into kits according to the specified packing instructions. These groups assembled all 62 kits in 35 minutes, filling the air with conversation, creativity, fellowship, and laughter.



Each kit contained one each of the following: hand towel, washcloth, toothbrush, bar of soap, bottle of shampoo, deodorant, and a personalized prayer card from BGUMC - complete with hand-drawn artwork by our children. A check representing a \$2.00 donation per each kit will also be sent along to cover the cost of razor/toothpaste—to be added by the Distribution Center to each kit at the time of ship-out.

In addition to the fully completed kits, we will also send along our extra toothbrushes (1), hand towels (3) and washcloths (50).

As an added bonus, a number of “not quite matching size specification items” will be delivered to Emma Norton: 20 bars hand soap, 14 bottles shampoo, 17 deodorant sticks, 10 toothbrush/toothpaste packs.

The average value of each fully assembled kit is \$14.00 @ 62 kits = \$868 in donated supplies. The value of the extra supplies sent to the Midwest Distribution Center plus Emma Norton equals approximate \$163.00 That is \$1,031 estimated total value of supplies given. Wow!

During morning worship, the congregation blessed the boxes of packed supplies with the following prayer:

Leader: Our loving God, we ask your blessing on these Personal Dignity Kits, whose contents have been donated by persons within our congregation, and that have been packed by hands of all ages! We dedicate these kits to your service.

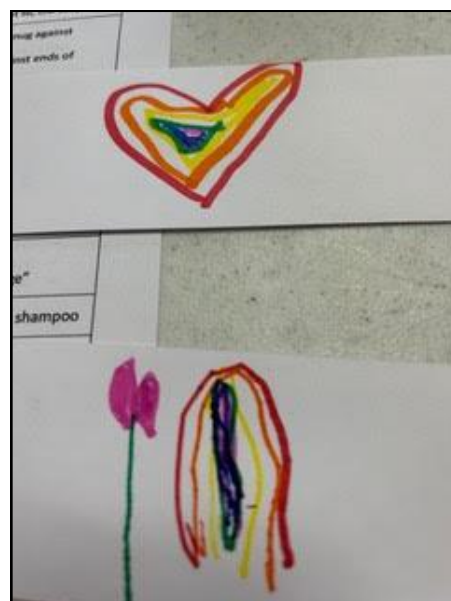
**People: With each kit, we include our prayers that God’s great compassionate love will encircle the person who receives it – to comfort them, guard them, protect them - and fill them with strength and courage for each day ahead.**

Leader: May these kits serve as a tangible sign that others care.

**All: Amen.**

Note: The Midwest Distribution Center is an organization supported by the United Methodist Church. Their mission: to show God’s love in a practical way to those in need.

Supplies, including Personal Dignity Kits, are distributed freely in times of crisis through the organization’s trusted partner non-profits throughout the US and the world, working with people from all places and backgrounds. In 2022, \$7.99 million of supplies were sent in 299 domestic and 48 international shipments.



## Celebration Sunday

As is our custom, at the end of the Sunday School year, we recognize all those many people who've been involved regularly or on an occasional basis in our Christian Education growth. This, of course, is not limited to "traditional Sunday school" of our youth, but ALL the ways we, as a congregation, nurture and are nurtured as we grow in learning, understanding, and spiritually in our Christian walk. Those persons facilitating our growth are numerous indeed. And, in fact, every person sitting in a pew on a Sunday, or in front of the screen for the on-line service, and those reaching up in their prayers from the prayer chain contact, those speaking from the pulpit, and those knitting a prayer shawl, or... the list continues. Each of us is integrally valuable in the Christian growth of each other. Remember that song – "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together!" Those words are so true!



But as we celebrated each and every one of us, small gifts from the church were presented to some of our youth. Bibles were given to Bradley Christesen, completing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and to Gabe and Will Mullenbach, newer members who'd not yet received Bibles, though older than 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. (Bradly was absent, so Grandma Cindy accepted his Bible – see photo).  
(Patti Ellingson)



Mikayla Spinler awarded the Outstanding Master Student Award.

## Congratulations to Mikayla Spinler! Outstanding Master Student of Animal Science

Congratulations to Mikayla Spinler who graduated with her Master's of Science in Animal Science from Kansas State University on May 12th – pursuing a master's degree in applied swine nutrition. She was awarded the Outstanding Master Student Award, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship. Per the news release from KSU:

Mikayla is an active member of the ASI Graduate Student Association, and she shares her knowledge with undergraduate students as a teaching assistant for Principles of Feeding, Animal Sciences Career Preparations class, and AS internship class. In addition, she has proven to be an excellent representative of K-State and their ASI department as she has volunteered at numerous department events. Mikayla is passionate about the swine industry and has conducted research on sows despite it being one of the hardest phases of research to accomplish. Her core master's trial measured the impact of feed flavor on sow feed intake and litter weight gain. She then followed off-spring into the nursery to measure post-wean performance. Mikayla spent many nights at the swine farm assisting with the farrowing process to complete this research. Her master's research program is unique in the fact that she has conducted sow, nursery, and finisher researching, which as provided her with a wide base of swine nutrition and management knowledge.



Editor's Note: Watch for news of Mikayla's research as published on July 7, 2022 in the National Hog Farmer and on April 20, 2023 in the Farm Journal – Pork! Mikayla now begins her PhD work through K-State.



### Pastoral Care Visits

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. Be sure to have a few dates and times in mind.

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.)



**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.*

- An elementary teacher of several of our students who has been battling severe health concerns. Exciting news: she is now back in the classroom!
- Prayers for people dealing with difficult relationships within their family system – asking for God’s help in finding answers that make the most sense in each unique situation.
- Tena, as she recovers from a recent surgery.
- Oliver, Patti Ellingson’s grandson, with medical treatments making a huge difference.
- Our farmers - and all who depend upon agriculture for their livelihood – as they navigate the impact of this cold and ultra-wet spring.
- Carol Karsten’s son, Wally, as he meets with doctors to review progress of his cancer therapy.
- Char Frankenberry’s son, Dale, as he recovers from cancer surgery and begins chemo.
- Young Kinsley, and her parents, as Kinsley battles anatomical issues with her sinuses – and Kinsley’s doctors- as they determine next steps.
- Prayers for Brandon, the son of Nicole Wacek’s friend Annette. In April, Brandon was critically injured in a farm accident, and hospitalized with multiple broken bones and internal injuries. He has since undergone extensive surgeries to rebuild broken bone structures - and will be confined to bed for months – after which, he can begin rehab.
- All persons throughout our country in the past month whose lives have been impacted by the devastation of mass shootings.
- 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.



### WITH DEEPEST Sympathy

**Raymond Lloyd “Ray” Lemke** passed away peacefully on Sunday May 21, 2023 at the Spring Valley Care Center. He was 93 years old.

Ray was born on March 12, 1930, in Yale, South Dakota, to Emil and Emilie (Musolf) Lemke. The family moved to Spring Valley in 1933 where Ray attended school, graduating from Spring Valley High School in 1948. He worked in the laundry service at the State Hospital in Rochester until being drafted into the army in January of 1951. Ray served in the army as a track vehicle mechanic in Germany until discharge in 1953.

On returning home, he worked various jobs. In 1957 he met and began dating Ruth Hintze. They were married on June 14, 1959. After working for a time with Kruegel Gas of Spring Valley, Ray began a 30-year career as a mail carrier with the US Postal Service. After retirement from the USPS, Ray kept busy with various jobs again, from construction assistant to camping trailer repair.

Ray was the proud father of 2 daughters, Carolyn and Ann. He was present at their many school activities and the whole family enjoyed many camping vacations all over the United States. He proudly walked both daughters down the aisle at their weddings.

Ray was very family-oriented and relished going to family reunions to visit with his aunts, uncles, and cousins, in addition to smaller gatherings of his siblings, parents, nephews, and nieces. In addition to family camping trips and family gatherings, Ray enjoyed watching sports, traveling and joined Ruth in fossil and rock collecting. He loved music and sang in the church choir most of his adult life. Ray and Ruth also played cards monthly with the same group of friends for 50 years.

Ray is survived by his wife of nearly 64 years, Ruth, and daughters Carolyn (Brian) Kanne of Medford, Minnesota and Ann (Brad) Ihrke of Spring Valley. Also surviving are grandchildren Deanna Kanne of Orlando, Florida, Michael Kanne of Medford, Josh (Brooke) Ihrke of Stewartville and a sister Anita Nelson of Spring Valley.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents, Emil and Emilie, infant brothers Irvin and Melvin, sisters Anna Richardson, Leona Nelson, and Doris Crabtree; brothers Edwin Lemke and Wilmer (Bill) Lemke; brothers-in-law Douglas Richardson, Alan Nelson, David Crabtree, and Ken Nelson; and sister-in-law Lila Lemke and Sylvia Lemke; 2 nephews and 2 nieces.

Memorial service will be held 11:00 A.M. June 1, 2023 at our Saviors Lutheran Church in Spring Valley. Visitation will be held at Our Saviors Lutheran Church from 5-7 P.M. on Wednesday May 31 and will continue for 1 hour prior to the service.



## Graduates Celebrated

Our H.S. and post-H.S. Advanced Learning grads received small gifts from the church. See photos of grads in the May Visitor, plus 2 missing photos here.



Devon Danks (grandson of Linda & Chuck Danks)



Matthew Beck (grandson of Linda & Chuck Danks)

## BGUMC Connections at Emma Norton “Opening Doors Gala”

On April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Emma Norton organization hosted their Annual Event & Silent Auction – an evening of celebration, philanthropy and fun in support of their mission to provide transformational housing and growth to women, individuals, and families on their journey of recovery. This will be the last of Cindy Saufferer’s 8 years serving on the Emma Norton Board of Directors. Joining Cindy and Brad at their table for the evening were Blooming Grove UMC folks, Sherry Wacek and Luke and Bobbi Mathern. Ask them to tell you stories of the evening! A huge thank you to Half Pint Brewing Company and the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm for sponsoring a basket for the Silent Auction. Their basket sold at \$285!



All are welcome to join in on any of these ongoing fellowship and faith gatherings!

**(Parish) Bible Conversations  
at the Brewery  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays at 6:00 P.M.  
At Half-Pint Brewing Company  
Blooming Grove Township**

Join as families and friends in a new way to consider faith through fun, fellowship, and food! Hosted by Pastor Kathy King, we gather together to enjoy each other’s company, as well as a guided discussion - with a new faith topic each time - based on the resource “Pub Theology”. A light supper is provided at each gathering, and Half-Pint Brewing has craft beer and root beer available. Contact Pastor Kathy for more info.

**(Parish) Justice Through Love Book Study  
Monthly – in the Evening  
at Blooming Grove UMC**

Step in beside us as we explore how Love awakens in us a sense of justice and how we can join in God’s reparation of the world. Prior attendance and reading the book is not required. All are invited and your wisdom welcomed! Watch for news about dates/times of a unique summer session, and then, an in-depth study beginning in the fall. Contact Cindy Saufferer for more info.

**(Parish) Bible Study  
Every-Other-Thursday at 9:30 A.M.  
At Cool Wave Coffee Shop  
801 Fremont St. E., Waterville, MN**

Conversations are based on that day’s devotional reading from *The Upper Room Disciplines, a yearly devotional guide* that provides an opportunity to look more deeply at scripture by offering a week of devotions by a single author on a particular theme. No advanced preparation work is needed. Participants are welcome to come and go in the group as their schedule allows. Contact Pastor Kathy for more info.

**(Parish) Bible Study  
Every-Other-Saturday Morning  
By Telephone Conference Call**

Conversations are based on that day’s devotional reading from *The Upper Room Disciplines, a yearly devotional guide* that provides an opportunity to look more deeply at scripture by offering a week of devotions by a single author on a particular theme. No advanced preparation work is needed. Participants are welcome to come and go in the group as their schedule allows. Contact Pastor Kathy for more info.

**(BGUMC) Prayer Brunch  
Monthly at 11:30 A.M.**

**At a date and restaurant selected by the group**

Gather for a time of great fellowship and food – and for sharing stories and any prayer requests that you, your friends, family, or acquaintances may have. Contact Sheryl Brisel for more info.

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

June 2023

### 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)

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## ***A Very Special Sunday***

The pews were filled. And there was a tangible – and an audible – “buzzing” in the congregation prior to the start of church. Leighton Nicholson and Raelynn Janke, along with their families and extended families, had been eagerly anticipating this day. May 7<sup>th</sup> saw these two young folks become confirmed on that beautiful, warm sunny day. The awesome flame-and-cross confirmation stoles (made by Linda Kosel) lay across their shoulders as Leighton and Raelynn stood before the congregation. The two responded in their profession of faith; the congregation responded with their reaffirmation and their committed promise to continue to nurture, surround, and welcome them into our church body. Perhaps the most moving portion of the confirmation service is that time when family and those close to each confirmand gather closely around to lay a hand on the confirmand as Pastor Kathy spoke.

Appropriately, this was also communion Sunday.

It's occasions like this that are valuable catalysts for each of us to reflect on our own responsibilities – and blessings – as we reaffirm our beliefs and our faith. For Raelyn and Leighton, it was the culmination of two years of learning, shared group experiences with Pastor Kathy and several adult volunteers, and of introspection. It **was** a very special Sunday. Following the service, Allison and Michael Janke hosted a wonderful reception and meal for everyone in celebration of our new confirmands..... and that, too, held a very happy audible buzz as everyone visited and ate.

