



THE VISITOR



What you should know as we start Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. No Sunday

School on the 4th Sundays.

Sunday School will run from 9:00 am (or as soon as church is over) to 9:45 am.

- Oct. 1—No Sunday School—Pizza Farm Worship
- Oct. 8, 15, Nov. 5, 12 and 19th.

Dec. we change service time so Sunday School will change as well. You'll get a notice of the time when it is decided.

3 year olds thru kindergarten will be in Noah's Ark Room (NW classroom) with Kristin, Val and Beth rotating as teachers.

1st grade thru 3rd grade will be in the NE Classroom with Patti as teacher.

4th grade thru 6th grade will be in the Fireside Room with Brad as teacher.



Hands Around the World Global Mission Offering Results

Thank you to all who joined together in August and September to raise \$415 in support of two global mission partners of the United Methodist Church:

- The work of JP and TP in SE Asia, both of whom we were privileged to meet during morning worship on June 11th.
- The work of Lorraine Charinda (Kamisamba Farm & Training Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), who joined us at the Pleasant Grove Pizza farm on Sept. 2nd, and in morning worship on Sept. 3rd.

All proceeds will be split 50/50 between the two programs. For each \$10 contributed, we have added a "Helping Hand" to the world map located in the back of the sanctuary – wrapping these folks in our hands and hearts of love!

Update on Winter Clothes for Students Project



As we did last year, we are partnering again with Medford Public School to help replenish their supply of spare winter clothes. The "help your local schools" grant we applied for through the MN Annual Conference was not granted, but we can still help out with this project. The social workers at the school have provided a list of items they usually need – although any winter outerwear or monetary donations are welcome. Here's the list:

- ◆ Sizes needed: Size 5+, smaller sizes for elementary students
- ◆ Items: sweatpants, leggings, thicker socks, sweat-shirts/zip-ups, long and short sleeved T-shirts, water resistant winter gloves.
- ◆ This is a great use for Kohl's Cash or credit card reward dollars!

We will have a box in the back of the church starting in November. If you have something you want to get in prior to that, contact Carolyn Kanne.

November: Turkey Bingo And More.....



Details are being worked on for a fun evening of Turkey Bingo. We'll start the evening out with a potluck supper, and then we will play bingo for turkeys and other prizes.

The evening will also include a silent auction. Start thinking about fun baskets you can put together and donate for the auction.

Possible dates for the activities are November 17th or 18th.

Watch the next November Visitor for full details. Brad Spinler will be working on sign-up sheets. Let Brad know how you can help. (507-461-2354)



Gospel Worthy Living



“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, [a] striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”
Philippians 1: 27 NIV

Soon, the yellows and oranges of fall will surround our homes in the form of leaves, pumpkins, and mums—some are already adorning our doorways. As I prepared for this coming Sunday’s reflection (September 24th), I read Paul’s words, and I pondered what is living that is “worthy of the gospel.” It seems nearly inaccessible for someone who knows that I too often fall short of Paul’s lesson’s call and that of our founder, John Wesley, for holy living. Too often, I allow the busyness of these days to get in the way of reading my Bible, pondering how the words I read call for me to live in these days.

Our excuse of being too busy to step into the shoes of Christian discipleship is convenient because we’ve let it become convenient. We’ve become people who place priorities on personal choices rather than on those that are Christ-like. How easy it is to claim Christ as our Savior and disregard the responsibility inherent in being disciples of Jesus Christ. I wonder, how does discipleship look for each of us? It is not my question to answer for you. Rather, each of us needs to take the time to discern discipleship for ourselves. Have we spent time discerning the gifts and talents God equipped each of us with?

As October begins, we have the opportunity to gather at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm for our World Communion Sunday celebration on October 1st. We begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. This year, our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Woojae Im, will join us to share a bit of his story. I hope you can come to meet him and welcome him! We will be blessed again by Kristin Ziemke who will play, sing, and accompany our Pop-up Choir led by Judy Mahler. In mid-October, we can look forward to supporting the Chicken and Biscuits Dinner served at our Waterville EUMC on October 14th. Watch for more information!

This October may we better discern what it means to live worthy of the gospel as we journey in our discipleship together. Please know your pastor and Jerry are blessed by you and our parish community!

Pastor Kathy

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship **8:15 a.m.**
Sunday School **9:00 a.m.**

1	Sun		BG NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
1	Sun	10:30 am	Parish Wide Communion Service at Pizza Farm
11	Wed	7:00 pm	BG Council Meeting
12	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
14	Sat	4:30-6:30	Chicken Biscuit Dinner at WV EUMC
17	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Brewery
18	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Depot
22	Sun		BG NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
22	Sun	1-3 pm	Community Halloween Party At WV EUMC
26	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
29	Sun		BG NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
29	Sun	2:30 pm	Confirmation Class



3	Elenora Christesen	9	Karen LaFond
4	Cody Blake	12	Chery Southworth
4	Andrew Engebretson	17	Phyllis Giebner
5	Ashley Pitzer	19	George Sharp
6	Tyler Jesse	20	Jerry King
6	Thomas Prechal	23	Thomas DeLeon
		26	Bruce Saufferer



Happy Anniversary

5	JJ & Stefanie Morgan
9	Marcus & Callie DeLeon
10	Decey & Bob Jesse
19	Brian & Katie Martin



**Waterville Evangelical
 UMC Annual Chicken
 and Biscuit Dinner**
October 14, 2023
4:30-6:30 pm

We are ready for that wonderful meal that we look forward to each year! Please join us for a wonderful meal of Chicken and Gravy, Homemade Biscuits, Corn, Coleslaw and some amazing pie for dessert! All for a free-will offering. You can dine in, drive-up, or come in for take-out!

Treasurer's Report

August 29—September 25, 2023



General Budget Income	\$ 4,296.19
Other Income	
Cemetery	100.00
Food Shelf	2,621.00
Sale of Hay	100.00
Mission Income	180.00
Total Income	\$7,297.19
Expenses	
Telephone	52.52
Cleaning	135.00
Excel Energy	140.04
Lawn Mowing (Janke Farms)	2,200.00
Lift License	180.00
Website Fee	319.16
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,026.72
(Net Income:	+ \$4,270.47)

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration	\$ 750.00
Total Income	\$ 750.00
Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,505.13
(Net Income:	— \$2,755.13)

Restoration Fund Balance	\$72,770.56
Building Addition Loan	\$262,336.33

**Community
 Halloween Party**
Waterville EUMC
October 22, 2023
1-3 pm



Waterville EUMC is looking forward to hosting their second annual Community Halloween Party! The Acts 29 youth are working very hard to organize another super fun Halloween Party that will take place at Waterville EUMC on October 22nd from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm. It will be open to the parish and the community and will be for most all ages. We hope you show up in a costume to enjoy games, crafts, and some fun food! Invite your family and friends to join us at this event!

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 pri-

- Phyllis Griebner, of Waterville, and her family, as they continue in their care for her father.
- Jean, a friend of a friend of Marlis Mahler. Jean has overcome many health challenges, and recently has been diagnosed with yet another critical medical concern.
- Ken Harren's brother, Art, who is struggling with health issues.
- The family and friends of Scott Mende, of Madison Lake, who passed away in September. Scott is the grandfather of Pastor Kathy's daughter-in-law, Trista.
- The family and friends of Nicholas Bartelt, age 42, of Waseca, who passed away in September. Nick and his family are friends of Luke and Bobbi Mathern.
- The family and friends of Lois, a classmate of Dick and Trudi Fisher, who lost her life in a car accident in September.
- Tom & Kim Mosher - high school classmates of Carolyn Kanne and Hjordi Churchill - who lost their home and all of their belongings in a fire.
- Karrie VanZuilen's sister-in-law, Karen, who is dealing with health issues.
- Area farmers whose crop yields were severely impacted by September's high temperatures and strong & scorching winds.
- All whose lives have taken unexpected turns and who are finding their way along new and uncertain paths.
- The family and friends of Gene Wiebusch, a beloved teacher from Janesville UMC, who passed away in September.
- Tracie Spinler's good friend Denise, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Jeannette, a niece of Linda Danks, who is dealing with health concerns.
- All those impacted by the rise in COVID cases.
- 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

The Stretch

What is "Normal"?

"I don't push my heterosexuality on others" were the words that greeted me as I joined a group gathered around a table. I had met this person 15 minutes earlier and was looking forward to getting to know them. As I sat quietly listening to the conversation, I began to ask myself why isn't "heterosexuality pushed on others"?

My stretch began with Dominant Culture which refers to the cultural values, beliefs, and practices that are prevalent in a society and that are often associated with mainstream or dominant groups. Dominant culture is often characterized by its dominance over other cultures and its ability to shape and influence societal norms and expectations.

In the United States, dominant culture is often used to refer to a culture that is white, able-bodied, cis-male dominated, and heterosexual. Simply speaking, this is the privileged group that defines "normal".

However, we live in a multicultural society that includes many that may be forced to accept the dominant cultural norms and most often marginalized.

If we consider the conversation, I referred to earlier, the dominant culture appeared as heteronormativity—the assumption that all people are and should be heterosexual. This leads to a marginalization of those who identify as LGBTQ+, who are made to suffer from internalized homophobia, isolation, and other mental health issues.

Being a member of the dominant culture, how do I, how should I, or should I define normal? The simple answer is no. Like art, normal is subjective. What is normal for one person isn't normal for another. Normal suggests a standard in which we are to live up to. From my perspective, in a denomination that espouses Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors, defining normal feels a bit hypocritical.

My prayer is that as you stretch, you begin to ponder the ways in which we can grow in love for all our neighbors. I leave you with a quote from Maya Angelou:

If you are always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be.

What's Next: Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann. Look forward to joining the group for a movie night, dinner, and discussion. Date and location to be determined. Go ahead and read the book, it is very good!

Much Peace, Cindy Saufferer
Prairie Lakes Parish Love Through Justice Coordinator

Running and Ribbing

It's never easy. We've done the Run for the Loaves for twelve, maybe thirteen years and well, it's a lot of prep work and a little hectic on the day of the run but it's fun and comes together every year. The Holy Hog barbeque cook off on the other hand..... more on that later.

We had thirty-three runners and walkers this year with six virtual runners and five kids running the twelve-year-old and under race. The kids' race is always the most fun of the day. They run a quarter mile out and back. Seeing a four-year-old running with a huge smile just makes your heart feel good.



The Owatonna Boys' cross-country team ran again this year as they have done every year of the race. A better behaved, more respectful group of young men you will not find. After the race they lined up and shook hands and thanked us for organizing the race. My thought was, that is backward, without the team there would not be a race. My father would have said it was backassward, but this is a church newsletter, so I did not say that.

As it is every year, the members of the church showed up, did all the work necessary, and made the event a great success. The baked

goods provided for sale were excellent as always. They are a big hit with the runners and my grandkids, too big a hit with the latter.

Now, the Holy Hog barbeque. Four teams participated this year. Julie King from Janesville, Trojan Ribs (daughter Beth and son-in-law Gil), Stang Good Ribs (Brad and Tracie Spinler), and the Brain Trust (Justin Krell and Alex Spinler). Everything sounds good, right? Oh, you are so wrong.

Where to start, I'll start close to home with son-in-law Gil. Gil, last year's winner of the Holy Hog trophy, scheduled himself to play in a golf tournament that morning and left all the cooking to Beth. Claimed he forgot about the cook off. I now have a new favorite son-in-law named Skippy, he's imaginary. Team Stang Good Ribs and team Brain Trust used the same smoker and got their ribs mixed up, yah right, and combined their donations to win the competition. Beth smoked mac and cheese again this year and provided corn bread with the ribs. Once again, she was accused of cheating. It's not against the rules. Truthfully, the only rule is using the ribs provided and have them done by noon. Julie King sat quietly and barbecued some really good ribs. Thank God for Julie King.

So, in conclusion, we raised more than \$2,600.00 for the food shelves, we served 20-30 friends and neighbors' lunch after the barbeque, and everyone had a great time. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. Now I have to buy a thank you card for son-in-law Skippy. (By Brad Saufferer)



Celebrations of Baptism

We are delighted to share in the heartwarming Sacrament of Baptism for two of the littlest children in our midst! Welcome to these precious ones!



Sunday, July 16th, baptism of Andi Joan Spinler, daughter of Alex and Lacey Spinler, and sister of Bowen!



Our September 10th children's sermon time, led by laity, was especially delightful. Our young people went outside - accompanied by Ryan Saufferer, Alex Spinler, and Marlis Mahler - to look for signs of God, and record what they saw through their very own artwork. They then returned to the sanctuary and joined Cindy Saufferer in the front of the church to share their stories of their findings with all of us gathered there. Their insights were amazing!

Sunday, September 24th, baptism of Thomas James DeLeon, son of Marcus and Callie DeLeon.



Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Thank You to Sunday Morning Volunteers

Thank you to all from our congregation who volunteer each Sunday to serve as greeters, share in reading scripture, and provide treats for fellowship time! Your hospitality and leadership are treasured gifts.

A special thanks to those who have given of their time, talents, and creativity in the past two months to design and lead worship services during Pastor Kathy's intermittent times away for MN UMC Conference work.





Sunday, October 1, 2023

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

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



41142 160th Street, Waseca
(715) 523-0857
pleasantgrovepizzafarm.com

Our Time Together

10:00: Arrive for check-in and place pizza orders

- ◆ Stop by the Prairie Lakes Parish check-in table by the Pizza Farm Barn where you will be welcomed by volunteers from the parish who will:
 - ◇ Provide bulletins with shared liturgy and congregational hymns.
 - ◇ Provide an offering container where you may drop your offering gifts for your preferred church.
- ◆ Place your pizza order in the Barn and set up your family's seating in the worship area (east of the Barn).

10:30: Morning Worship, led by Pastor Kathy King of the Prairie Lakes Parish

11:30 - 1:00: Pizza Lunch on the Grounds

Our Music Leaders for Worship at the Pizza Farm are Kristin Ziemke (one of the worship musicians for Janesville UMC), Judy Mahler (one of the worship musicians at Blooming Grove UMC), and the Prairie Lakes Parish Pop-up Choir.

At our Pizza Farm Worship Service, we will join congregations around the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday - which always takes place on the first Sunday in October. This special day is a time for remembering that around the world—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. Join us for this joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a celebration of our Christian brothers and sisters from around the world.

Planning Ahead - Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Information

(Because our Prairie Lakes Parish has made a group reservation, individual reservations are not needed.)

Information from the Pizza Farm's Facebook page/website:

- ◆ No spools, benches or picnic tables will be provided.
- ◆ Bring your own seating and a portable table (if desired).
- ◆ If you plan to stay for pizza lunch, pack a cooler with items such as the following: beverages, any other food you wish to enjoy with your pizza, plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and a trash bag to pack out your garbage when you leave.
- ◆ A hand washing station is provided. Although hand sanitizer will be provided at the ordering stations, please also bring your own.
- ◆ No pets allowed.
- ◆ 9 main pizzas and a weekly feature are offered. Check out their website for the detailed menu at pleasantgrovepizzafarm.com). Pizza prices range from \$22-\$27. They take credit cards and cash. One pizza feeds approximately two people as they are 16" hand rolled. They do not take pre-orders over the phone.

Directions to Pizza Farm from Blooming Grove UMC:

**Go south on 180th Street for approximately .2 miles. Turn right onto 430th Ave/County Hwy 10, travel 2.01 miles. Turn left onto 160th Street and travel 1.8 miles. Pleasant Grove is on the left.
If you have any questions, call (507) 456-3937.**





Missions Corner

James 2:14-18 - Faith and Deeds

¹⁴ What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? ¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

For over 150 years, persons within our church family have taken these words from James to heart and lived out their faith through their deeds. It began with the establishment of a school for girls in China in the late 1800's by one of our pioneer foremothers, and has been a continual thread in our story ever since. We express our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been, and continues to be, involved in this grassroots work of helping others.

At our July Council meeting, we talked of exploring additional ways that we can serve our neighbors – locally, in MN, in the US, and globally. Out of these conversations, a new team has been born – the BGUMC Missions Team. In addition to walking alongside current BG mission leaders and long-standing BG mission focuses, they will also dream about, look for, assess, and offer additional opportunities in which we can be involved. Thank you to the following persons who have volunteered to be on this team:

- ◆ Dick Fisher
- ◆ Trudi Remund-Fisher
- ◆ Carolyn Kanne
- ◆ Judy Mahler
- ◆ Marlis Mahler
- ◆ Bobbi Mathern
- ◆ Cindy Saufferer
- ◆ Nicole Wacek

We continue to celebrate the unique gifts and talents that each person in our midst brings to our world to be the hands and feet of Christ.

See below for just a few of the many opportunities through which our faith family is making a difference in our present time.

- Adopt-a-Family program at Christmas.
- Face Mask Ministry in which women from our congregation sewed and distributed 700+ face masks during the height of COVID-19.
- Involvement with the "Feed My Starving Children" program.
- Fleece Blanket Ministry in which intergenerational members of our congregation tie fleece blankets to distribute through local organizations who help support people in need.
- Support of Local Food Shelves through proceeds raised at the following BGUMC events, open to the public: Spring Breakfast – hosted by the Men of BGUMC, Fall "Run 4 the Loaves" Run/Walk, Fall BBQ Cook-Off.
- Local High School Senior Scholarships provided by our United Women in Faith group.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry in which artisans in our congregation knit/crochet prayer shawls of warmth and love to be given to people in need of support and prayer.
- Sharing & Caring Ministry for local organizations that provide support for persons in need: restocking Faribault District One Hospital ER's clothing cupboard inventory, donating household and personal care supplies to Ruth's House in Faribault, donating winter clothing items to the "Spare Winter Clothes Cupboard" at Medford Public Schools.
- Assembly of Personal Dignity Kits to be distributed in times of crisis throughout the US and the world through the United Methodist Midwest Distribution Center in Illinois.
- Special Mission Offerings supporting such causes as disaster relief programs of the United Methodist Church, Emma Norton Services (a Twin Cities organization affiliated with the United Methodist Church that provides transformational housing for women and their families), the annual Love Offering of the MN Conference of the United Methodist Church (which supports various service programs in MN, the USA, and overseas).
- Support of global mission partners of the United Methodist Church in Southeast Asia and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Special Guest Lorraine Charinda Kamisamba Farm

On Sunday, September 3rd, we were blessed to have Lorraine Charinda of Kamisamba Farm and Training Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in worship with us. We were excited to

hear first-hand of the amazing agricultural work, teaching, and economic development that their ministry is leading. Here are portions of the 08.16.23 story written about Lorraine by Karla Hovde, communications specialist for the MN Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Charinda has been passionate about helping people find ways to support themselves and their families since she was young. She grew up seeing many examples of families who could not fully sustain themselves with agriculture, women who were not financially independent, and children who were malnourished. When she met her mentor—her university lecturer and a missionary—she discovered that missionary work was her calling.

Charinda, whose home country is Zimbabwe, has served with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries since 2017. She works as an agricultural rural economic development specialist in the Democratic Republic of Congo, based in the city of Lubumbashi. She works for Kamisamba Farm, a United Methodist entity that trains farmers across the country on sustainable agricultural practices.

Charinda is currently supporting a program of seed selection for corn, rice, and soybeans, so that farmers can increase their yields. Many families farm very small plots of land and raise just enough for their own use. With better quality seeds, farmers will be able to harvest and sell extra crops as a source of income.

Charinda also works with the UMC's local nutrition center. There, mothers are trained to cook foods with local ingredients that offer good nutrition for their children. There are many cases of child malnutrition in the area, even though nutritious ingredients are available. She says some people do not know about nutrition, and the training makes them aware of the assets available in the community.

Another project she finds especially meaningful is a village savings group, where women can get training and small loans to start their own businesses, such as sewing, selling pottery, or other skills they can offer. Charinda explains that in the local culture, girls as young as 14 or 15 often have children they cannot support, women are expected to be housewives with no source of independent income, and widows are not considered homeowners. If a husband dies, his family can take all his possessions and home, leaving the widow with nothing. Charinda sees what a difference it makes to empower these women.



“To give them a source of income and a source of hope, to see that they are able to be empowered,” she says. “It shows that the church is remembering all these people. It is preaching through the work, not just preaching with a Bible in the church.”

Charinda shares one recent success story that she finds especially touching. Kamisamba Farm offered a four-month training in launching a business. The project



was in partnership with the government, which was going to offer loans to students at the end of the training in March 2023. But such government programs are troubled, and the money

never arrived. Many students got frustrated, but one student, who had a very small project raising catfish, took all the ideas from the training and dramatically expanded his enterprise, even without the loan. Now in August, he has an officially registered business. He employs eight local youth and pays them with a percentage of the farm's profits. The bookkeeping and marketing skills he learned in the training were instrumental in making this new business successful.

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

October 2023

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:

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kking5@hickorytech.net

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Autumn Means Harvest

By Lenore Hetrick



**Autumn means harvest,
And grain in the bin.
Autumn means farmers
Are bringing fruit in.
It means summer's blooming
Has given its yield.
Autumn means high tide
In orchard and field.**



