



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE VISITOR

Volume 86, Issue 3

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

March 2022

## Lent



### Lent & Holy Week Services

#### Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

4:00-4:30 pm Pastor Kathy available to administer ashes to anyone who would like to receive them and a prayer.

6:30 pm Waterville EUMC

7:30 pm Blooming Grove UMC

#### Maundy Thursday

6:45 pm Janesville UMC

7:45 pm Waterville EUMC

#### Good Friday

7:00 pm Blooming Grove UMC

#### Easter Sunday

7:00 am Blooming Grove UMC

8:45 am Waterville EUMC

10:15 am Janesville UMC

### Lent & Easter Mission Giving Opportunity

In the spirit of Lent and Easter - as we remember Christ's love for the world - we are partnering in mission with the Waseca County Food Shelf. This provides the opportunity for them to maximize the matching fund program of the 2022 MN March FoodShare Campaign.

For every \$20 we raise, we will add a Food Flash Card to a "Help Line" on the side walls of our BGUMC sanctuary. The east wall is already filled with flash cards totaling \$550 - much of which was raised by the February 13<sup>th</sup> Breakfast sponsored by the men of BGUMC. Let's see if we can fill the west wall as well!

Here's how you can help:

#### By March 31<sup>st</sup>

Share as many of your monetary gifts as possible in order that we can submit our donations to the Waseca County Food Shelf prior to the early April deadline for matching funds from MN Foodshare.

Drop off loose change donations for the food shelves in our "Noisy Can" offering receptacle in the back of the sanctuary.

Drop off larger donations in the regular offering receptacle, with donations noted "Food Shelf". Please make your donation as a check (to BGUMC) or place your donation in an offering envelope with your name identified on the front. On each, indicate "Food Shelf".

#### April 1<sup>st</sup> - April 17<sup>th</sup> (Easter Sunday)

Continue making donations, as described above.

FYI: only those proceeds received by March 31<sup>st</sup> will be eligible for matching funds from MN Foodshare.

The 2022 MN FoodShare Matching Funds Campaign works as follows **during the month of March**:

MN FoodShare receives donations from corporate state sponsorships.

Local food shelves work hard to raise awareness of the needs in their communities, and to gather as many donations as possible to take advantage of the matching program of MN FoodShare.

For each pound of food and each dollar received by a local food shelf during the March Campaign, MN FoodShare distributes a proportional match to that food shelf - in the form of a grant from the corporate sponsorship funds. These grants make a huge difference in a local food shelf's ability to serve the needs of their clients.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 13th.

Be sure to set your clocks ahead before going to bed Saturday night.



# Pastor's Message

## Our Lenten Journey

- <sup>7</sup> Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.  
<sup>8</sup> Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. <sup>9</sup> Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.  
<sup>10</sup> Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.” James 4:7-10 NIV

So quickly we've reached the season of our Lenten journey 2022. We realize the blessing of being able to gather if we choose to do so. We weren't able to be together until Easter last year. We understand there are those who choose not to be a part of our worship fellowship due to COVID concerns but we are seeing more and more of one another as the infection rates fall in our area. It is a blessing!

Lent is a time for personal piety as we reflect on our lives and how it is we feel led to journey through these days with Jesus and his incredible love through sacrifice. James 4 tells us to surrender ourselves to God by resisting evil and—by doing so—evil will leave our lives. In our journey through these days, God calls to us; beckoning us to draw near to God. James advises our time of Lent to be used to “clean” our lives and purify our hearts. We are to grieve our selfish ways and lament our sinful nature. In humbling ourselves before God, we will find the burden, the darkness, and the shame of sin wiped away by the love and grace offered through Jesus and His incredible gift of love.

This season, our Prairie Lakes Parish will try a new way of taking our Lenten journey through a weekly devotion available in our bulletins, by email, and on our websites. The Sunday reflections will be based on the devotions. It is our hope that you'll find this way of observing Lent helpful in these days of busy lives. Your pastor, SPRC, and leadership team appreciate your input about all things involving your church.

May each of us be courageous and honest in reflection as we journey through Lent 2022.

Live bravely!

*Pastor Kathy*

# March 2022

**Blooming Grove**  
Morning Worship..... 10:45 am  
Sunday School .....10:00 am

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

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

		1	2	3	4	5
			<b>Ash Wednesday Services</b>  6:30 WV 7:30 BG		Pastor's Day Off	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	6:30 pm Worship Committee at BG		6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV		Pastor's Day Off	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
 Daylight Savings Time Begins  <b>BG 2nd Sunday Funday</b>			6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV		<b>Fish Fry</b> 5-7 pm at BG  Pastor's Day Off	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Confirmation  			6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV		Pastor's Day Off	
27	28	29	30	31	<b>Wednesday, April 6 6-8 pm</b>  Packing food at Jesus Food in Faribault with the Waterville Evangelical UMC Acts 29 group	
			6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV			

## MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

2 Wed 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service at BG  
7 Mon 6:30 pm Worship Committee at BG  
18 Fri 5-7 pm Fish Fry

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4 Jerry Ellingson	22 Brian Kosel
5 Ken Harren	24 Abigail Buchholz
6 Connie Goslar	24 Dan Carty
6 Trudi Remund Fisher	24 Brianna Yule
11 Elizabeth Knutson	26 Ray Blake
19 Sebastian Fyvie	26 Ila Prchal
20 Lauri Remund	27 Judy Mahler
21 Mary Wilkowske	27 Karrie VanZuilen
22 Hjordi Churchill	28 Luke VanZuilen
22 Cody Kosel	31 Andrea Stockdale

## Happy Anniversary

Happy Anniversary to Keith & Lauri Remund  
on March 18th.

## Parament Colors

The Parament Color for March is Purple.

## Coming Event



Mitchell Hall and the Tennessee Trio  
Johnny Cash Tribute

August 13  
6-8 pm

Free Will Donation for the  
New South Addition

BBQ Picnic prior to the show

## Treasurer's Report

January 30—February 26, 2022



## General Budget Income

**\$ 2,776.01**

## Other Income Received

Food Shelf	14.90
Men's Breakfast	535.00
Tubing Trip	100.00
Kamisamba Farm	100.00

## Expenses

Pastor (Salary, housing, pension, disability)	2,093.48
Cleaning	120.00
Excel Energy	103.21
Greenwald's (Poinsettia)	304.00
Telephone	57.66

## Total Paid Out

**\$ 2,678.35**

(Net Income: + \$847.56)

## Building Addition

### Income

Restoration Income	\$ 740.00
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### Expenses

Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
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## Total Paid Out

**\$3,505.13**

(Net Income: – \$2,765.13)

Restoration Fund Balance	\$61,887.41
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Building Addition Loan	\$358,844.51
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## UMW Scholarship Fund

For about 10 years, the Blooming Grove UMW has provided at least one scholarship for a graduating Medford senior. In line with United Methodist Women's mission of public service, a major criteria is community service. Until we can get back up and running with fundraisers for this cause, we are asking for donations to the scholarship fund. An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$500 in funds donated toward the UMW scholarship fund! You can make donations through the church, noting "Scholarship" on the memo line. In order to meet the school's deadline for this year, please submit any donations by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for supporting education!



## Education & Events

**Stay Tuned:** What started out as a hopeful suggestion by one of our “7-Ups” youth, snowballed into a church-wide all-family activity and ended up as an avalanche of eager anticipation by 58 parish-wide members and friends to spend an exhilarating day all together snow tubing down Camp Omega’s hill, playing in the snow, and warming ourselves (inside and out) in the warming house with hot chocolate, treats and live music. Alas, those eager plans all melted into a puddle of exposed winter grass and hurried last-minute phone calls and emails that the hill was closed due to lack of snow. In Minnesota... in February!

Who’d a thunk it?? But true optimistic Minnesotans, and Methodists, we accepted what Mother Nature/God presented us for weather; then we hunkered down a couple days later under fresh snow and bitterly cold wind chills! Ah, Minnesota! But the snow tubing seed has been planted and is germinating. The E & E

team is aware of the potential parish-wide turn-out, so we definitely plan to revisit this as a “next year” event (maybe even add in snowman building as an option for non-tubers?). Next year this space will hopefully be

filled with great pictures of our congregations sharing fun times – and a tubing hill – together. Stay tuned for winter 2023!

**Feed the Birds:** Our February **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Funday**, found 36 busy, busy hands loving on our feathered friends the day before Valentine’s Day. 11 adults and 7 kids worked (it wasn’t truly “work”, though) together creating 2 different kinds of hanging treats for the birds as well as stringing some colorful, edible cereal necklaces for themselves. We all stuck together (peanut butter was involved, so....) to make this a creative production. Some of the cereal-feeders were very uniquely one-of-a-kind as pipe cleaners morphed from heart shaped to all manner of free-form expression. *[Even the squirrels (at my house) got in on the lovin’ as they nibbled on the treats.]* Upon completion of our bird feeders, liberal use of wet-wipes to peanut buttery fingers was followed by a mixed bag of people snacks (literally, a MIXED BAG) given to each one as they carefully carried their feeders home to be hung in a tree. Good times? Well, look at the pictures and decide for yourself.

(Continued on back)



### Calling All “Christian Music” Lovers:

Coming very soon to a sanctuary near you – the March **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Funday** will be a potpourri of Christian music. You need not be a singer; if you enjoy listening to others lifting their voices, or tapping your foot to the beat, or accompanying the music by playing a rhythm instrument **OR – all** of the above, this intergenerational event is tailor-made for you. There’ll be enough kid’s songs (we hope) to keep them content – and they get first dibs on the instruments especially for the grown-ups’ favorite hymns to which they most likely won’t know the words. **EVERYBODY** responds to music; it touches us on an emotional level. We’ve been accumulating a list of our congregation’s favorite Christian tunes. Make sure your favorite one(s) is/are added to the list, even if you aren’t there to hear it, we’ll sing it. And, singer or non-singer, sitting still is not required; grinning, praising, swaying and even dancing is certainly allowed. Oh yeah, you know that Bible verse “Make a joyful noise unto God, all the earth. Worship Him with gladness; come into His presence with singing”? (Psalm 100) Notice it says “joyful **noise**” and “singing”. It does **NOT** say: “raise your glorious melodic soloist voice because that’s all God wants to hear”. Everyone, **EVERY-ONE** is welcome to join together by the piano and organ for **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Funday**. So Saturday eve of March 12<sup>th</sup>, set your clock ahead an hour (daylight savings time begins) and be part of our joyful noise on Sunday from 10 to 10:45. See flyers for specifics. I wager it will be an uplifting experience. (If it’s not, I don’t have any real money on this wager, but I’m fairly confident.) (by Patti Ellingson)



**What Better Way to Spring Ahead Than with MUSIC!**

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME  
BEGINS

Blooming Grove Church is well-known for our music.

If **you** love music, even if “you can’t carry a tune in a bucket,” than this is for you.

You can listen while others sing (there will be people who like to sing),  
or you can make your “joyful noise” in a ‘creative’ tune!

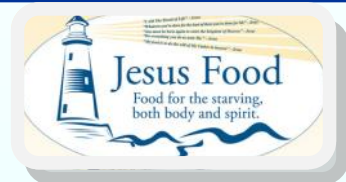
You can play a rhythm instrument (kids especially), of which we’ve got quite an assortment.

**Second Sunday – Funday! Hymn-sing & Sing-along**  
(singing not required but encouraged)

- ❖ Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. CDT
- ❖ Gather in the sanctuary near the piano/organ
- ❖ All ages, all skill levels
- ❖ Our favorite Christian songs & kids’ “church songs”
- ❖ Snacks & something to “wet your whistle” provided.

Sound like fun? It WILL be!

**Join us!!**



### Invitation from Waterville Evangelical UMC

The Waterville Evangelical UMC’s Wednesday night group—Acts 29—would like to issue an invitation to the whole parish to take part in packing food for the Jesus Food Organization. (Jesus Food is an organization similar to Feed My Starving Children and is located in Faribault. ) The date will be April 6th. The place will be the Faribault Mall. The time will 6 pm to 8 pm.

#### Message from Dave Wollin from Waterville UMC:

We really need donations of money in order to make this work. Our group can only pack as many meals as we can pay for. This means that we may only be able to work as long as we have the money to pay for the meals we pack. We have found this to be a wonderful activity for people of all ages, even the elderly. It is a standing up activity, but you can always sit down and rest when you get tired. We will have a group of young people who will work tirelessly to get most of the work done, but every time we have done it, we have had people of all ages. Please try to raise some money for the project even if you can’t participate. Cash is great, but checks will work just fine. Make them out to Jesus Food. Dress comfortably in older clothes. You will no doubt get some dust on you from the dry goods. Please spread the word! Let me know how many you might have who want to participate. See you then!

(Please respond to Dave Wollin at 507-384-8438 or Killebrew1956@hotmail.com)

# Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

## 2021 Contributions Summary

January 1 to December 31, 2021

### Quarter

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

Total

### LOCAL USES

General Budget	17,579.11	10,442.50	11,623.77	12,589.00	52,234.38
Visitor	45.00	15.00			60.00
Building Fund	13,736.00	1,585.00	4,255.00	43,088.29	62,664.29
Fish Fry	3,715.00		2,199.00		5,914.00
Cemetery Maintenance	1,090.000	125.00	300.00	600.00	2,155.00
Easter Flowers	331.00	15.00			346.00
Insurance Refund		133.00			133.00
Hay Sold		375.00	319.00		694.00
Nail Crosses		100.00	1,150.00	300.00	1,550.00
BBQ Cookoff			657.00		657.00
Confirmation				126.00	126.00
Mowing				1,000.00	1,000.00
Poinsettias				364.00	364.00
MN Builders Loan				100,000.00	100,000.00

TOTAL LOCAL USES	36,496.11	12,790.50	20,503.77	158,067.29	227,857.67
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### OUTREACH

Food Shelf	659.00	40.00			699.00
Annual Conf. Love Offering		200.00			200.00
Kamasamba Farm			81.42	493.91	575.33
Run 4 the Loaves			1,083.00		1,083.00

TOTAL OUTREACH	659.00	240.00	1,164.42	493.91	2,557.33
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TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	37,155.11	13,030.50	21,668.19	158,561.20	230,415.00
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Please pray for the following persons and situations shared publicly within our community of BGUMC



**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.*

- Pastor Kathy's 13 year-old nephew who is recovering from a complex back surgery.
- Cindy Saufferer's mom, Marge, who is facing numerous health concerns.
- Luane and Bob, friends of Hjordi Churchill, as they care for Luane's father who has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Del, of the Janesville UMC congregation, and his family. Del is undergoing extensive treatments in Rochester for a complex infection.
- Elizabeth, daughter of Linda and Chuck Danks, struggling with health concerns.
- Judy Mahler's niece, Jessica, of Fairbanks, Alaska, who hit a moose on her way to her night shift at work. She miraculously managed to escape with minor injuries, but their family van was totally destroyed. Pray for healing of both body and soul as she moves in time from the sights, sounds, and experiences of that night.
- Marlis Mahler's friend's nephew, Taylor, who is hospitalized.
- Tracie Spinler's co-worker's young granddaughter, who was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis about a year ago, and who will be receiving injections in her knee. It is so hard to be different than other kids. Please hold the whole family in prayer as they travel this life-long journey with her.
- Dave and Sheryl Brisel's friend, Linda, whose husband, Denny, passed away in February.
- The people and leaders of Ukraine and all others working to help them.
- Prayers for safe travel for representative members of the U of M Marching Band, scheduled to travel to a World Expo, currently hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, as representative of MN and the United States.
- Prayers for safe travel for all who are vacationing outside of the USA in these uncertain times.
- Prayers of joy for a fraternity brother of Michael Kanne, who is scheduled to complete his last can-

cer treatment.

- Pastor Kathy's great-nephew who is struggling with the loss of Pastor Kathy's mom, Dee.
- For all continuing to be impacted by COVID in so many ways.
- 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.



## **Blooming Grove Church Council Meeting February 23, 2022 Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary**

In attendance: Brad Spinler, Chery Southworth, Char Frankenberry, Pastor Kathy King, Jerry King, Brian & Carolyn Kanne, Judy Mahler, Brad Saufferer, Patti Ellingson.

### **Opening Prayer**

**Review of January 2022 and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2021 meeting minutes:** no changes

### **Financial Report:**

- **Treasurer's Report:** it was decided that all food shelf money collected during lent/Easter will go to the Waseca food shelf, since most of the Run 4 the Loaves proceeds go to the Steele County food shelf.
- **Financial Secretary's Report:** No questions.
- **Audit:** Pastor Kathy will ask Arlene Wetzel for suggestions on how to proceed.

### **Trustees Report:**

- **Building Projects:** Ammon is coming on Friday for the final walkthrough; we owe him \$14,000. We also need to pump the septic tank again; we may be getting groundwater in the tank, so that will be checked on.
- **Funding/Balance Updates:** There is \$60,000 in the building fund. We are paying \$3,505.13 per month between the Medford bank and the Builder's fund loan. Brad Saufferer mentioned that it might be wise to lock in our current interest rate at the bank, before interest rates start to rise.



## (Council Minutes—Continued)

### Old Business:

- **BG Officers, Teams, and Committees 2022:** Trustees need to name a new chair, since Brad Spinler is now Board chair. Patti is the chair of the E&E team until the end of the Sunday School year. Hoping to co-chair with someone else going forward.
- **Easter Mission Project:** Food shelf. See Treasurer's Report, above.

### Miscellaneous

- **Medford School Scholarship:** This is a UMW project. The school needs to know soon, and the UMW will be meeting soon to address this issue.

### Team Reports:

- **Education & Events:** Patti reported a great turnout for the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Funday. Response to the snow tubing outing was fantastic (58 signed up), but the snow didn't cooperate and we had to cancel. We'll try again next year. The April 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Funday will be Christmas in April.
- **PPRC:** Judy reported that they will be meeting 2/28 with new members, so this meeting will be to get organized. The chairmanship is rotated among the churches.
- **Communication:** Judy reported that Holly Sobrack corrected our Google search result to link to our website. Kristin Krell, Judy, and Pastor Kathy are our Facebook administrators. Brad Spinler commented that we will want to keep our site fresh, with updated pictures every so often.
- **Worship:** The Worship Committee met via Zoom 2/20 to work out the Lenten schedule. Ash Wednesday services will be held at 6:30 in Waterville and 7:30 here. Janesville will have an open church in the afternoon for drop-ins. Maundy Thursday service will be at 6:45 in Janesville, 7:45 in Waterville. Good Friday service will be at Blooming Grove. Easter services will be at 7:00 am at Blooming Grove, 8:45 in Waterville, and 10:15 in Janesville. The Worship Committee will be meeting in person to plan hymns and services on March 7 at 6:30 here at Blooming Grove.
- **UMW:** Char asked about using our new space for UMW meetings. We will meet after church on Sunday to schedule one.
- **Tech Team:**
  - **Online Giving:** So far, this is just to donate to the building fund; we will ask Kristin about adding an option to give to the general budget.

**Website:** Already addressed above by Communications Team.

### Pastor's Report:

- **Schmita:** Postponed to 2023. This is paid for already, and will just carry over to next year.
- **Innovation Incubator:** This group meets for 2 hours every Tuesday. Cindy Saufferer and Karen Olson are participating with Pastor Kathy. They are exploring new ways of being the church in a multi-point charge.
- **Confirmation Update:** While the last gathering had to be moved, the Faith in Music presentation was well-received. The next meeting will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at BG with Kristin Krell, who will talk about Faith in Social Media.
- **Lent Begins Wednesday, March 2**
- **Course of Study:** Currently in Evangelism class
- **Annual Conference May 24, 25 in St. Cloud:** Kathy received an email from the Conference Tech Director – District Superintendent Fred VanderWerf mentioned us as a possible resource for a “resurrection” theme. More to come on that.

### Upcoming Events:

#### Fundraising Ideas:

- Something with food always goes over well.
- Judy mentioned the cookbooks and anniversary plates in the attic. We decided to bring them down and charge \$10 apiece to start with. Pastor Kathy suggested putting cookbooks into silent auction baskets.

### Other Items:

- Judy brought forward information on a Minnesota Conference Church-School Partnership Grant that is available for churches to do activities with their local school. Other congregations have used this to purchase books to promote diversity; fill backpacks with weekend food; provide winter clothing for students in need; reduce lunch debt; support extracurricular activities; etc. Janesville has participated in this program, filling back packs with school supplies. Carolyn will contact Medford Superintendent Mark Ristau to ask for suggestions.
- Brian mentioned that we really do need a bulletin board somewhere for display of various items that come in the mail (notes of thanks, other churches' event announcements, etc.). It doesn't need to be as big as before, but it needs to be big enough to be seen.

**Next Meeting Date:** June 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

**Meeting Adjourned**

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

March 2022

**The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

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Check us out on Facebook!

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**[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)**  
**507-382-2483**



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

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## Lenten Fish Fry

Friday, March 18th

5-7 pm



Eat in the church basement or Grab and Go.

Serving Walleye and all the fixings.  
(Meals guaranteed for 200 people.)

All proceeds to go to the Building Project.

(Help will be needed from the congregation to get the basement ready and to help at the fish fry. Contact Brad Spinler to let him know how you can help.) [bspinler@outlook.com](mailto:bspinler@outlook.com) or 507-461-2354