



THE VISITOR



Fish Fry Time Sunday, July 21st

By Brad Saufferer

It's time for the summertime fish fry at the Half Pint

Brewery. The date for the fish fry is July 21st and the time is 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Once again, it's time for the award winning fish fry. (I awarded myself the best church fish fry at a rural Minnesota Brewery Award, there wasn't a lot of competition). It is a free will offering with all proceeds from the fish fry going to the accessibility project at the church.

The menu this year is breaded deep fried walleye, French fries, coleslaw, cookies, and root beer floats. The breading for the walleye is a closely held Saufferer family recipe along with the coleslaw recipe. They are not award-winning recipes.....yet.

Come join us on the 21st for fish and fellowship. If you would like to help in anyway, please give me a call at 507-363-6579. If past fish fries are any indication, it'll be a great time and you won't want to miss it.

**VACATION BIBLE
SCHOOL AT EUMC
JULY 14-18 2024
6:00-8:00pm
Ages 3yrs to 6th Grade**



This year's vacation Bible School, hosted by Waterville Evangelical United Methodist, is a parish-wide VBS – for children of all three churches in our parish: Blooming Grove UMC, Janesville UMC, and Waterville EUMC. It will also be open to children of all residents of the Waterville community, in order to provide a place and space of hope, creativity, fun, faith, and fellowship in the midst of the flooding devastation that surrounds them.

Come join camp Counselor Sam and Lumen, "Lu," the lightning bug, for a summer adventure at Camp Firelight. Campers will accompany Counselor Sam and Lu to learn to face their fears while trusting in God.

As Campers experience the timeless Old and New Testament stories through music, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they learn ways to connect with and trust God. And best of all, they understand they can connect with God at VBS, church, home, and every area of their lives.

We invite you on an exciting journey where you may learn to trust God no matter what situation life brings, know God is always with you, and feel confident in sharing the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions or want to register your young campers, please contact Julie Balfe: jmbalfe@yahoo.com or text 507-330-0280.

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

We hope you can join us for our July, August and October services.

**Sunday, July 28th at Waterville
Evangelical UMC**

Theme: Fueled by Hope

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship

Light Lunch to Follow

Sunday, August 25th at Janesville UMC

Theme: Open to God's Signs

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship

Light Lunch to Follow

Also save the date of Sunday, October 6th

World-Wide Communion Sunday

Parish Worship Service

At Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

10:30 A.M. - Morning Worship

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

**Additional Pop-Up Choir Rehearsals
for July's Joint Worship Service**

Sunday, July 14th: 9:15–9:30 A.M. at BGUMC

Sunday, July 21st: 9:15–9:30 A.M. at BGUMC


Tuesday, July 23rd: 6:45-7:45 P.M. at WV EUMC

July 2024

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

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

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

	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7	8 6 pm WV Ad Council	9 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	10 7 pm BG Council Meeting	11 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville	12	13
14 9:15-9:30 am pop-up choir rehearsal at BG	15	16	17	18 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave in Waterville	19 Pastor's Day Off	20
Vacation Bible School in WV from 6-8 pm each evening					21 Pastor's Day Off	22
21 9:15-9:30 am pop-up choir rehearsal at BG 4:30 - 7 pm Fish Fry at Half Pint Brewery	22	23 6:45-7:45 pop-up choir rehearsal at WV	24 11:30 Prayer Brunch at Oscar's in Waseca	25 6 pm Bible Conversations at Pizza Farm	26 Pastor's Day Off	27 10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV
28 9:15 am Pop- up Choir Practice at WV 10:15 am Parish Service at Waterville	29	30	31		Parment Color The Parment Color for July is Green	

JULY CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

- 10 Wed 7:00 pm BG Ad Council
- 11 Thur 9:30 pm Bible Study at Cool Wave
- 14 Sun 9:15 am Pop-up choir rehearsal at BG
- 14-18 Sun– Thur 6-8 pm VBS at Waterville
- 18 Thur 9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave
- 21 Sun 9:15 am Pop-up choir rehearsal at BG
- 21 Sun 4:30 pm Fish Fry at Half Pint Brewery
- 23 Tues 6:45 pm Pop-up choir rehearsal at WV
- 24 Wed 11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Oscar's in Waseca
- 25 Thurs 6:00 pm Bible Conversations at Pizza Farm
- 28 Sun 9:15 am Pop-up Choir at WV
- 28 Sun 10:15 am Joint Parish service in WV



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Tena Harren 2 Bowen Spinler 3 Will Mullenbach 5 Parker Nelson 6 Samuel Kanne 7 Dawn Yule 9 Alexandra Martin 13 Linda Danks 14 Mason Nagel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Regan Poe 16 Tess Christenson 18 Greg Poe 20 Holly Nagel 24 Marcus DeLeon 26 Ben Fyvie 27 Ashley Loken 28 Stephanie Neuhaus 28 Ryan Saufferer 30 Mikayla Spinler 31 Joe Prchal |
|---|---|



Happy Anniversary

- 13 Norman & Phyllis Giebner
- 21 Mike & Allison Janke



Ruth's House

20th Anniversary Celebration

August 23, 2024 | 5 pm - 9 pm

Apple Creek Orchard
5524 185th Street W, Faribault, MN

- HAYRIDES
- GAMES
- FOOD TRUCKS
- LIVE MUSIC

Treasurer's Report

June 1—June 28, 2024



General Budget Income	\$ 3,745.00
Down the Drain	1,175.00
Emma Norton	150.00
Love Offering	220.00

Total Income **\$5,290.00**

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	2,223.64
Telephone	54.21
Excel Energy	70.85
Post Office Box	72.00
Lawn Mowing	676.50

Total Paid Out **\$ 3,097.20**

(Net Income: + \$2,192.80)

Building Addition

Income

Restoration	\$ 560.00
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Total Income **\$ 560.00**

Expenses

Loan Payment	\$ 5,045.06
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Total Paid Out **\$ 5,045.06**

(Net Income: — \$4,485.06)

Restoration Fund Balance	\$70,625.60
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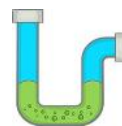
Building Addition Loan	\$234,643.26
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Down the Drain Fundraiser

We Exceeded our Goal!

Total Project Cost: \$4,198.89

Total Contributions: \$4,783.93



Thank you to all who have contributed to our Down the Drain Fundraiser to update the functionality of the drain system for our BGUMC basement kitchen sinks! The sinks have been back in full use since March, enabling us to much more easily host events in our fellowship hall, including our Lenten Fish Fry, Easter Breakfast, a District United Women in Faith Event, and our Prairie Lakes Parish Lunch. We express our great appreciation for your support, not only of our kitchen sink drains, but of the ministry and outreach of BGUMC.

Thanks for doing such a great job taking care of the church. My great Grandparents, Grandparents and Parents applaud your work.

Blessings,

Lois Hamilton



Come to Me



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Matthew 11:28 NIV

As we enter this month of July, I wonder how many of us are feeling exhausted. Our average rainfall for the Mankato area in June is 5.6 inches. Recent reports tell us that our area has had three times the normal rainfall for the month of June. Our parish church, Waterville Evangelical United Methodist Church was surrounded by floodwaters but the efforts of the trustees and volunteer helpers helped to protect the church from major flood damage. Our Waterville congregation has members who had to evacuate who live in the uncertainty of not knowing if their homes can be saved.

Driving through our rural Minnesota countryside we can see the devastation farmers are dealing with as their crops are flooded out. Friends, it is not an easy time to be a pastor. When people ask, “Why do these things happen?” I don't have the answer. So I offer to those things where I find comfort. Matthew 11: 28 tells us that Jesus offers us His comfort with the words: “Come to me, all who are weary, all who are burdened. I will give you rest.” Please pray for:

- Our friends who live in Waterville
- The Waterville Evangelical United Methodist Church
- our MN National Guard
- the many workers doing everything they can to help
- the many other communities dealing with so much in these days
- our farming community impacted by the flooding

In the coming days and weeks we will be hearing how we can help. We will be sure to pass that information along. Please know that our Minnesota United Methodist Church hasn't forgotten those who are impacted. Our Bishop's office has called as have several of my colleagues to offer their support.

We have many things to look forward to in this month of July. All three of our churches will hold their respective board meetings, our July joint service will be held at our Waterville Evangelical United Methodist Church, and our Blooming Grove United Methodist Church will hold their summer fish fry event at the Half Pine Brewing Company.

Thank you for all your cards and well wishes for my birthday, our anniversary, and my surgery. I am looking forward to days without a sling on my arm. Thank you for being the blessing you are. May we rely on the rest that we find in Jesus Christ.

Pastor Kathy

June Events at BGUMC A Celebration of Community

United Women in Faith Day Apart

On Thursday, June 11th, BGUMC hosted the United Women in Faith Day Apart for women of the MN UMC Prairie Winds District (central and southwestern portions of southern Minnesota). Guests traveled from as far away as Redwood Falls, Worthington, and NE Iowa to gather in fellowship, worship, and study. Their time together was focused on the legacy of Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley – founders of the Methodist Church, as well as Susanna’s call to us to actively live out our faith today. With nearly 40 in attendance, it was a day filled with music, stories, a surprise appearance from Susanna Wesley herself, a pop-up choir made up of the day’s guests, and an inspirational service of Holy Communion. This was the first time in the group’s history that they have met at a rural church like ours, and they expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the welcome, hospitality, and grace that our church (including people, building, and location) offered.

Prairie Lakes Parish Combined Worship Service

On Sunday, June 30th, BGUMC hosted the first in our series of our Prairie Lakes Parish Joint Summer Services. Our theme that day: “Walking the Road of Faith Together - All Are Welcome”. 63 persons gathered from all three churches for morning worship, and 42 folks joined together for a lunch in the basement fellowship hall afterwards. The day filled us with a renewed sense of calling to welcome all as we walk the road of faith together. Persons from BGUMC shared scripture stories of extravagant hospitality and welcome. We enjoyed an impromptu, “worship band” of rhythm instruments created by the

kids during children’s time – reminding us that, as with instruments, we are all unique, all needed, and all welcome as part of God’s people. Our 14-member parish pop-up choir shared two anthems, inviting us to draw the circle wide as we welcome all. Pastor Kathy told stories of diversity in gardening, and in people, encouraging us to extend a welcoming hand in our daily lives. We also prayed for all in the wider circle of communities impacted by the devastating flooding (in particular - for our sister community of Waterville), and we considered how we may be able to help in recovery efforts the days ahead.



Thank you to all who volunteered

We extend a sincere thank you to the countless individuals who shared their time, energy, talents, and faith in helping plan for, and create, a space of great hospitality and welcome for guests in our BGUMC midst for these two major June events. Volunteers helped in multiple ways, for both events, including the following:

- Prepare and help lead programming and worship
- Clean church – the addition, sanctuary, Sunday School rooms, and basement fellowship hall, kitchen and bathrooms
- Set up tables, chairs, and serving tables in the basement
- Decorate
- Prepare food
- Welcome guests
- Host teas and lunches
- Clean up after each 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 private.



REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

- Faye, and her medical team, and family, as they work together to provide best care in Faye's cancer journey.
- Nicole Wacek's uncle, Dale and his family as they walk together through Dale's diagnosis of an aggressive form of cancer and the next steps in his care. Especially hold Dale's children in your prayer as they lost their mother a few years ago to cancer and a brother to a tragic farm accident.
- Carolyn Engebretson's husband Ron, as he recovers from heart surgery.
- The newborn baby of a pilot friend of Brad Saufferer. Pray for the precious little baby, born significantly early, and with complex medical concerns, as well as for the little one's parents.
- All persons within our public school systems who are transferring jobs/locations in the coming months.
- Elizabeth, daughter of Linda and Chuck Danks, as she moves forward in the welcome news of a successful surgery.
- All in the state of Minnesota whose lives and properties have been ravaged by the effects of severe flooding.
- In particular, pray for those in our neighboring community of Waterville where extensive flooding has taken place. Pray for homeowners, business owners, churches, emergency workers, city and county staff, volunteers, and all involved in containing the flood waters of both lakes and the Whitewater Creek, and as they move forward in the daunting work of clean up.
- For Will Mullenbach's cousin, Mikayla, whose basement flooded in the recent rains.
- All in the state of Alaska, where weather conditions have contributed to widespread wildfires. In particular, pray for those fighting the fires in the area immediately around Fairbanks, where Judy Mahler's niece, Jessica, and her family live. Pray for weather conditions that bring rain, and for low winds, in order that the fires can be contained.
- Deb Miller's father, as he continues his recovery from a fall that resulted in surgery to repair a broken femur. Pray for patience in the long process of ongoing physical therapy and healing.

- Tracie Spinler's friend Darla, and her family, as they care for baby grandson, Austin, who continues to be hospitalized as he recovers from open heart surgery.
- Don, the brother-in-law of Linda Danks, who is experiencing extensive health concerns.
- Carol Karsten's sister-in-law, as she mourns the death of her brother, Larry.
- Sherry and Tom, and their medical teams, as they continue ongoing treatment for health concerns, and for Nicole, as she plays an integral role in their care
- Melanie, a friend of the Mullenbach family, who is experiencing significant health concerns.
- Marlis Mahler's niece, Tamara, of Colorado, and Tamara's family, care team, and day activity staff, as they continue working together to find the best combination of resources for Tamara as possible.
- Prayers of joy for Don Frankenberg, whose daughter received a job transfer from Georgia to Minnesota!
- Pray for all area farmers in the midst of uncertainty and crop loss due to the extensive flooding.
- 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.

Congratulations to Raelyn Janke

Congratulations to Raelyn Janke for taking 1st place in Medford's FFA Fall 2024 Fruit Sales – selling \$5,192 in fruit! This will go toward the cost of the FFA leadership camp that Raelyn plans to attend this summer. And best of all – Raelyn is helping to keep everyone in her circle of acquaintances healthy through fruit consumption! We also send our congratulations to Raelyn as she earned her FFA Greenhand Degree in May. Raelyn is the daughter of Michael and Allison Janke, and follows FFA traditions of her grandfather as well as her siblings.



In Sympathy



Carol (Karsten) Simanski, 87, of Red Wing, died Monday, February 19, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Hospital, Methodist Campus in Rochester. She was born August 29, 1936, in Morristown, Minnesota, to Sylvester and Gertrude (Thompson)

Karsten. She grew up on the family farm and attended schools in the area, graduating from Morristown High School. She moved to Rochester and worked at St. Mary's Hospital before meeting her husband, Donald Simanski. The two were married on Oct. 6, 1956, in Morristown and they made their home in Red Wing and in 1959 they bought a home in rural Hay Creek where they raised their family. She worked at the Red Wing Health Center as a nursing assistant for several years. Carol was a member of United Lutheran Church and the Red Wing Collectors Society. Together she and Donald enjoyed traveling. After Donald passed away in 2011, Carol stayed active with her friends, whether it was with their card club, cookie cutter club or RW Singles group, she enjoyed being with her friends. Carol enjoyed garage sales, shopping and picnics in the park and she was an excellent cook, baker and canner. Her family will remember the smell of her delicious homemade buns filling the kitchen and the special spin she'd put in her chili (egg noodles).

Carol is survived by 3 children and their families: Keith (Deb) Simanski, Patrick (Mayra Hernandez) and Thomas (Courtney), Brooklyn and Maisie. Kevin (Margaret) Simanski, Christopher (Sally), Kellan, Keira and Kolten, Katie (Ryan) Hilgers, Estella, Sadie, Griffin and Remy, Kelsey (Jake) Perkins, Aria and Aaron. Brenda Simanski Wicks, April (Swomitra) Mohanty, Alethea and Shama, Joshua Wicks and Jacob Wicks. She is also survived by her sister, Nancy (Larry) Morrison and nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Donald; brother, George; sister, Joyce Muehlen; great-granddaughter, Kenzie Simanski and Carol's beloved cat, Coco.



Jean Frances Franklin, age 102, of Hamilton, Missouri passed away Tuesday, June 11, 2024 in Faribault, Minnesota. Jean is the mother of Pastor Sharon Nelson, and has been residing with Pastor Sharon, and Sharon's husband Robert for the past several years.

Jean's funeral service was held in Missouri, at the Hamilton Federated Church, on Wednesday, June 19.

Jean was born on December 10, 1921 in Kingston, Missouri, the eldest daughter of Lynn and Coleen Bethel. She grew up in Kingston and graduated from

Kingston High School.

Jean married Henry Franklin in Hamilton on August 11, 1940. They began married life in Columbia, MO, and then lived in several places while Henry was in the Army Air Corps. Jean worked at various jobs during this time. Some of her favorites were: Boeing Aircraft, Indian Motorcycle factory, selling cigarettes and candy at the PX, and sewing on buttons at an Army shirt factory.

After WWII, Jean and Henry and their children Ron, Gary and Sharon settled in Marysville, California, where Henry worked first as a cabinetmaker and then as a rural mail carrier. In 1959, the family moved back to Missouri, where Henry continued as a rural mail carrier from Hamilton and Nettleton, and Jean worked as a cook at the elementary school in Hamilton. Henry passed away in 1987.

After retirement, Jean kept busy with volunteer work and church activities. She enjoyed reading and read more than 2,000 books over the past several years.



Lois M. Spatenka, 87, passed away on June 26, 2024, at Benedictine Living Community of natural causes.

Lois was born on May 9, 1937, in Faribault, MN, to Ernest and Nora (Halverson) Zander. She graduated from Medford High School in 1954.

She met the "Love of her Life" George H. Spatenka Jr. at the Monterey Ballroom and were later married on October 10, 1959, at United Church of Christ in Medford, MN. Making their home in Owatonna MN, together they had 4 children: Lori, Gary, Greg and Gale.

Following graduation, Lois started her work career at Federated Insurance, selling Real Estate, and working her self-owned businesses: The Budget Boutique and Curves for Women. She was a true believer and stressed the importance of natural health products and oils and continued selling these products until her death.

She received her 50 year membership pin from the Owatonna VFW Auxiliary #3723 on July 20, 2022. Lois' "passion" for baking and cooking was inevitable. She was always busy baking for family and friends, especially during the holidays. She made sure there was always a variety and plenty to go around.

She is survived by her children; Lori (Gary Crawford) Spatenka, Gary (Barb Grant) Spatenka, Greg (Pam) Spatenka and Gale Spatenka; grandchildren; Jordan, McKenzie, Ryan, Emily, Erin, Olivia, Jacob and Chase; 12 great grandchildren; in-laws; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents Ernest and Nora; husband George; brother Donald Zander and foster brother Harry Skogen.

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

July 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

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.



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kking5@hickorytech.net

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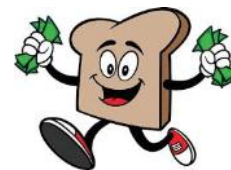
To unsubscribe or to be added
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contact cherysouth@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD – BGUMC COMMUNITY EVENT

Mark your calendars and spread the news!

Saturday, September 7th – at BGUMC

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



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

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

