



Looking Ahead to Lent/Holy Week Events

Prairie Lakes Parish Lent/Holy Week/Easter - 2024

This year's Lenten Focus revolves around the book "Renegade Gospel: The Rebel Jesus". Per the book's cover: "Central to the Christian faith is a man who denies all our pre-conceived notions about what God should look like. Jesus didn't come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution. You and I are invited to be a part. Pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year."

Each week, we invite you to be part of our 2024 Lenten Journey, as we follow the chapter themes of the "Renegade Gospel, The Rebel Jesus". If you so desire, feel free to read the book, but it is not necessary. We look forward to seeing you at our Sunday morning worship and Wednesday evening gatherings as your schedule allows. (See listings below.)

- ◆ Sunday worship will take place as usual at each of the three churches of our Prairie Lakes Parish.
- ◆ Special evening worship services and mid-week study/reflection groups will rotate locations among our three churches – persons from all three congregations are invited to attend each! Pastor Kathy and Cindy Saufferer (member of BGUMC, and UMC deaconess who serves our parish as Love Through Justice Coordinator), will lead our mid-week times of study and reflection.

Churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish

- ◆ Blooming Grove UMC @ 43089 180th St., Morristown (BG UMC)
- ◆ Janesville UMC @ 401 N West Street, Janesville (JV UMC)
- ◆ Waterville Evangelical UMC @ 319 E Main Street, Waterville (WV EUMC)

Remaining Parish Wednesday Evening Study/ Reflection Gatherings – 7:15 p.m.

February 28 th at JV UMC	March 13 th at JV UMC
March 6 th at BG UMC	March 20 th at WV EUMC

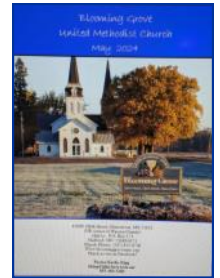
Parish Holy Week Services – 7:15 p.m.

- ◆ Maundy Thursday, March 28th at WV EUMC
- ◆ Good Friday, March 29th at BG UMC

Parish Easter Sunday Services - March 31st

- ◆ 7:30 a.m. at BG UMC
- ◆ 9:00 a.m. at WV EUMC
- ◆ 10:30 a.m. at JV UMC

Contact Information Updates and New Picture Directory



In February/March, we request your assistance in providing updated contact information for all who are part of our BGUMC faith community. This will help ensure that everyone receives timely news about church events, as well as timely communication for things such as scheduling changes due to bad weather. ***In conjunction with this work, we also plan to create a new, updated Picture Directory. Participation in the directory is optional.***

By March 10th – and thanks, in advance, for your help!

- Please complete the contact questionnaire form (front & back), and bring it, along with a recent photo(s), to church. OR mail or email the info to Chery Southworth, 26651 Elmore Ave., Morristown, MN 55052 (cherysouth@gmail.com).
- If you like, Michael Kanne can snap a photo of you and/or your family at church on Sunday mornings.





Contact questionnaire forms are located on shelf in the bell tower. Completed forms and related photos may be placed in the basket on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Feel free to contact Chery Southworth (507-339-3534) or Judy Mahler (507-456-3937) with any questions.

March 2024

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

Janesville
Morning Worship.....4:00 pm

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

Parament Colors March 3 Purple March 10 Purple March 17 Purple March 24 Purple March 31 White/Gold					1	2
					Pastor's Day Off	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
			6-7 pm in WV Acts 29 7:15 pm Parish Study/ Reflection at BG		Pastor's Day Off	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
 <p style="text-align: center; color: orange; font-weight: bold;">Daylight Saving Time</p>		4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	11:30 Prayer Brunch Pot- luck at BG 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29 7:15 pm Parish Study/ Reflection at JV	9:30 am Par- ish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV	4:30-7:00 pm Fish Fry At Blooming Grove	
					Pastor's Day Off	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 <p style="text-align: center; color: green; font-weight: bold;">HAPPY St. Patrick's DAY</p>			5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper/ WV 6-7 pm in WV Acts 29 7:15 pm Parish Study/ Reflection at WV	9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV		10-Noon Free Diaper Give-away at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Palm Sunday 2 pm Confirmation At Saufferer's			6-7 pm in WV Acts 29	7:15 pm Maundy Thursday service at WV  <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">MAUNDY THURSDAY</p>	7:15 pm Good Friday service at BG  <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: small;">GOOD FRIDAY</p>	
31						
Easter Services 7:30 am at BG 9:00 am at WV 10:30 am at JV						



Prairie Lakes Parish Prayer



Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16 NIV

As March begins our Prairie Lakes Parish continues our journey through Lent 2024. Our Ash Wednesday service in Janesville was the beginning of a time that may seem redundant—if we let it become so. Those of us who have more of the road behind us than ahead of us know the danger of time passing way too quickly. We often allow ourselves to become numb to the meaning of these seasons—especially the seasons of the church year. Cindy Saufferer brought a new awareness of how we see Jesus in our first Lenten Study gathering at Waterville EUMC. Cindy and I are co-leading this Lent's Wednesday evening studies based on a Lenten devotional titled, "Renegade Gospel, The Rebel Jesus" by Mike Slaughter. I hope you will be able to join us for our gatherings which rotate between our three parish churches. The schedule is in our bulletins and announcements. We are brothers and sisters in Christ in our gathering.

Another way we are the people of our Triune God is when we set a priority to spend time in conversation with God through prayer. Prayer is powerful and is an important part of the ministries of our parish churches. Each member of our parish church communities can request prayers. If you would like the community to offer prayers, send me an email, text, or call. You can also reach out to Chery Southworth in our Blooming Grove community or Karen Olson in our Waterville community. They are an important link in our parish prayer community.

Another important prayer community is our United Methodist brothers and sisters around the world. I took part in a prayer event last weekend, Pray for Ukraine. People gathered from the United States, Switzerland, Germany, and the Ukraine to pray for an end to war for our Ukrainian brothers and sisters. I list requested prayers from our gathering, and I hope you will add your prayers to them. Together, we have seen the power of prayer. In this Lenten season, may we see prayer as the gift it can be when we feel helpless.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE: For President Zelensky and other local and national political leaders.

МОЛІТЬСЯ ЗА УКРАЇНУ: За президента Зеленського та інших місцевих і національних політичних лідерів.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE: For the international community to support Ukraine appropriately.

МОЛІТЬСЯ ЗА УКРАЇНУ: Щоб міжнародне співтовариство належним чином підтримало Україну.

PRAY FOR UKRAINE: For our brothers and sisters in Christ, churches, and church leaders.

МОЛІТЬСЯ ЗА УКРАЇНУ: За наших братів і

You are in prayers, dear ones!

Pastor Kathy

MARCH CALENDAR

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

6	Wed	7:15 pm	Parish study/reflection at BG
13	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch potluck at BG
13	Wed	7:15 pm	Parish study/reflection at JV
20	Wed	5-6:30 pm	Spaghetti Supper at Waterville
20	Wed	7:15 pm	Parish study/reflection at WV
21	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
24	Sun	2:00 pm	Confirmation at Saufferer's
28	Thur	7:15 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at WV
29	Fri	7:15 pm	Good Friday Service at BG
31	Sun	7:30 am	Easter Sunrise Service

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
6	Val Mullenbach	26	Ila Prchal
8	Tom Wacek	26	Ray Blake
19	Sebastian Fyvie	27	Judy Mahler
20	Lauri Remund	27	Karrie VanZuilen
22	Hjordi Churchill	28	Luke VanZuilen
22	Cody Kosel	31	Andrea Stockdale

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



Join Us!

Treasurer's Report

January 29—February 25, 2024



General Budget Income	\$ 2,704.73
Down the Drain	1,856.22
Total Income	4,560.95
Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	2,223.64
Cleaning	145.05
Telephone	60.30
Excel Energy	139.43
Cleaning	145.05
Supplies	252.55
Total Paid Out	\$ 2,820.97
(Net Income: + \$1,739.98)	

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration	\$ 200.00
Total Income	\$ 200.00
Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,505.13
(Net Income: — \$3,305.13)	
Restoration Fund Balance	\$75,060.29
Building Addition Loan	\$249,467.15

Easter Breakfast

This year's Easter Breakfast is in the planning stages. Stay tuned for announcements in church and emails with more information.

Down the Drain Fundraiser

\$1,956 of \$3,500 Estimated Project Cost Raised to-date



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



Lent & Easter Mission Giving Opportunity through March 31st

Proceeds To Bethlehem Inn, Waseca

This Lent & Easter our congregation is working together to help support the Bethlehem Inn, a faith-based organization in Waseca that provides short-term transitional housing for homeless women and children, as well as social service connections to empower these families to improve their lives and be able to journey toward a more stable future.

- They are located at 400 2nd Ave NW, Waseca – right across from Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The building once served as the residence hall for the nuns of Sacred Heart.
- Since opening in January of 2019, they have served 357 homeless women and children (190 women and 167 children). In 2023 they served 43 women and 32 children.

We invite you to be part of this mission opportunity!

Financial Support

If you would like to contribute, please note “Bethlehem Inn” on your check or offering envelope, and place your donation in the white “offering coffee pot” at the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be made out to Blooming Grove UMC.

Hands-On Help – Blankets & Backpacks

Most guests arrive at Bethlehem Inn with all of their worldly belongings in a garbage bag. During their stay, Bethlehem Inn gifts each guest with a blanket of comfort, and at the time of their leaving, provides some sort of “luggage” in which guests can transport their personal effects. To this end, Bethlehem Inn welcomes donations of blankets & backpacks.

How can you help?

- **Our goal: to gather donations of 30 backpacks and 30 blankets.** These amounts accommodate Bethlehem Inn’s limited storage space.
 - ◊ **Backpacks:** new or “gently used, clean, in good repair”.
 - ◊ **Blankets:** new, or “gently used, clean, in good repair”, or something that you make on your own, or donations of material from which volunteers can cut and tie double-sided fleece blankets. 2 yds. blanket fleece needed to make each.
- **Please sign up for your planned donations** at the collection table in the SW corner of the sanctuary, or contact a Mission Team member with your plans. This will help as we coordinate this wonderful work.

- **Join in ongoing “Blanket Tying Gatherings” the first four Sundays in March at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room** in which we cut & tie double-sided fleece blankets. Open to 7th Graders through Adults - during the time our younger children are in Sunday School.

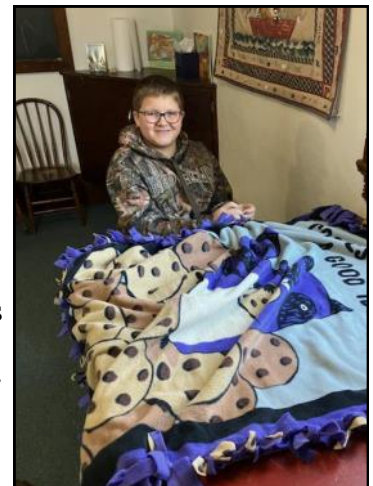
February 25th Multi-Generational Blanket-Tying Event



Val, Will and Peter Mullenbach

Thank you to the 9 people who gathered during the Sunday School hour on February 25th to tie fleece blankets to be given to the Bethlehem Inn as part of our Lent and Easter Mission focus. Amidst great conversation and fellowship, 10 blankets of various shapes, sizes, and designs were tied and then displayed on the altar rails for morning worship. Work on four other blankets was begun.

We invite you to join in ongoing “Blanket Tying Gatherings” the first four Sundays in March at 9:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room in which we will cut & tie additional double-sided fleece blankets. Open to 7th Graders through Adults - during the time our younger children are in Sunday School.



Gabe Mullenbach



Carolyn Kanne, Linda Danks, Sherry Wacek and Nicole Wacek. Not Pictured: Patti Ellingson

**Photos from our Super Skinny Sunday Lunch at BGUMC
Sunday, February 11th - After Morning Worship
Featuring:
Delicious Food, Fun Facts, Mardi Gras Beads,
And A Little Taste of New Orleans Music**

Totally in the spirit of fun – the day’s lunch tipped its hat to Super Bowl Sunday, and also celebrated Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, that would be taking place on February 13th, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras (Cajun) Menu

Pancakes

Delicious red beans & rice with ham

Beverages

Beignets (square shaped pieces of deep fried dough, generously sprinkled with confectioner’s sugar)



**A little “Fat Tuesday”
background!**

- ◆ Mardi Gras is French for “Fat Tuesday”. It is traditionally celebrated on Shrove Tuesday – or Pancake Tuesday, which falls on the day before Ash Wednesday.
- ◆ Historically, on this day, Christians would use up rich, fatty foods, such as meat, eggs and cheese, before the period of Lenten fasting. Many Christian congregations observe the day through the eating of pancakes, as well as the ringing of church bells, to remind people to repent of their sins before the start of Lent.



**Thank you to the following folks who
helped make this possible**

- ◆ Brad & Cindy Saufferer for coordinating and setting up the event and making the beans & rice
- ◆ Pancake flippers
- ◆ Ryan Saufferer and Raelyn Janke for making the Beignets
- ◆ All who helped behind the scenes
- ◆ All who joined together in the fellowship and fun





Lenten Friday Walleye Fish Fry

Friday, March 15th

4:30—7:00 pm

At Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Come enjoy good food and
great fellowship,
as we welcome spring!

Free-will offering with all
proceeds going to the
BGUMC Handicap-
Accessible Building Project

Contact Brad Spinler at
507-461-2354 if you have
any questions.



Menu

Walleye
Scalloped Potatoes
Green Beans
Corn
Dinner Roll
Dessert
Beverage



Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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



Note from Pastor Kathy King:
Please call or text me if you would like me to visit or if there is a prayer concern that you prefer to keep private.

- For all those impacted by the February 18th shootings in the city of Burnsville that took the lives of two Burnsville police officers and an EMT member of the Burnsville fire department. Please pray for their families, their tightly knit “family” of co-workers, and the extended families of their co-workers as they walk through this unfathomable nightmare that brings such vast grief and anguish to their lives. Please wrap them in your love from afar and hold them in your hearts for days, weeks, and months to come. Please also hold in your hearts and prayers the children and adult who were in the house and who survived.
- For the brother of a friend of Hjordi and Judy who is navigating a number of difficult and overwhelming things. Also hold their friend in your prayers as he offers his support for his brother.
- For Faye, and her medical team, as she undergoes testing for health concerns.
- For Scott, who has begun a journey with cancer.
- For Don, who was knocked down by a dog and fractured his shoulder in several places.
- For Hjordi, who missed a bottom step, fell, and fractured 3 ribs.
- For Nancy, wife of Wally Karsten, as she mourns the death of her sister, Marsha Christiansen.
- For the parents of Jake Goldsmith. Jake’s mom will be undergoing cataract surgery for both eyes, and his dad is undergoing testing for health concerns.
- 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.



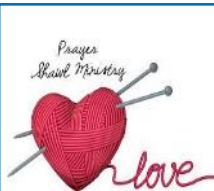
REQUESTS
— FOR —
PRAYER

Congratulations to Great Grand Babies



Congratulations to Brittany Kosel and Sully Pederson as they welcomed baby Lincoln Robert into their lives on February 1st. Little Lincoln is a great grandson of Brian and Linda Kosel.

Congratulations to Kaitlyn and Justin Heaton on the birth of a daughter, Poppy June, on January 22nd. Poppy is the great granddaughter of Jim and Chery Southworth.



Thank you from members of Judy’s extended family for the prayer shawls we sent to them for all that they are surrounding these days.

In this day, O God,

May I be alert.
May I be kind.
May I be compassionate.
May I be authentic.
May I be generous.
May I be forgiving.
May I be honest.
May I be brave.
May I be forgiving (again).
May I be open.
May I be creative.
May I be strong.
May I live from my intentions,
not simply my habits.

And may I hold closely in prayer the people you bring to my heart and mind right now...

May I focus, may I trust, and above all,
may I be yours.
Amen.

From “Ash & Starlight – prayers for the chaos & grace of daily life” by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn

Prayer Brunch

Our Prayer Brunch gathering will meet next on Wednesday, March 13th at 11:30 A.M. at BGUMC. This will be a shared Potluck meal – bring your favorite dish to pass! These gatherings are open to women and men of all ages and stages in life. Gather for fellowship, great conversation, and good food - along with the opportunity to share prayer requests with one another.

The Stretch

Dreams Really Do Come True (with a little help!)

A decade ago, I was sitting amongst a group, at a visioning retreat, whose deepest passion was walking with women who faced homelessness, trauma, and addiction. We were being *stretched* to dream our biggest dream and speak aloud the impossible. There was silence at first, then a waterfall of hope spilled out. Emma Norton Residence needed a new building. Not just any building, a building that would promote healing, dignity, security, and well-being.

Bishop Lanette Plambeck is now extending an invitation to all Minnesota United Methodists in supporting this impossible dream that is set to open in April 2024. Located on the old Ford site in Highland Park, Restoring Waters will provide trauma-informed care for more than 60 women, individuals, and small families who have experienced homelessness.

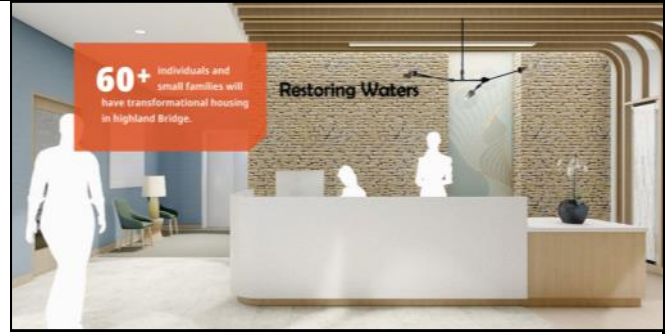
In Bishop Plambeck's letter to the Minnesota Annual Conference, she lifted the generosity of our faith community and others in having raised over \$2.7 million. With \$1 million left to raise by the end of 2024, she "believes this milestone can be achieved with our help" and is encouraging us to prayerfully consider ways to participate.

One such way Bishop suggests is by honoring Emma Norton's founding year (1917) by making a gift or gifts of \$1,917.00. Five hundred gifts of this amount would enable the organization to reach its goal. *(A stretch, maybe, but we are good at stretches!)*

I invite you to go online to www.minnesotaumc.org and read Bishop Plambeck's letter and watch her video. Then check out Restoring Waters at www.emmanorton.org.

Ten years ago, we sat in that room, dreaming, looking at a spreadsheet that was in the red, figuring out how to make payroll, yet we were always focused on our abundance. We had a dream, passion, gifts, and each other. As I finish my tenure with Emma Norton Services, your support, love, and grace were always a large part of my abundance.

Cindy Saufferer (Love Through Justice Coordinator for the Prairie Lakes Parish)



Preparing Our Easter Garden



It is time to start looking ahead, and plan to create a beautiful indoor garden on Easter Sunday. This year you can order a Tulip Planter for \$19; Single Easter Lily for \$17.00; Double Lily for \$36.00; Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Rieger Begonia or Daisy Mum for \$20 each; Azalea for \$32; Hydrangea for \$32; or a violet for \$7.95. Please indicate if you want a bow included. Greenwald's will select the color based on the best plants they have available. Please make your check out to the church with "Easter flower" on the corner



notation. A sign-up sheet will be available at church for those who are able to attend worship. If you live away from the area and would like to order a flower in memory or in honor of loved ones, please fill out the form below and mail it to the church at Box 171, Medford, MN, 55049. You can also call Chery at 507-339-3534 or email cherysouth@gmail.com.

We need to place our order by March 12th to guarantee plant selection but can add more later if needed.

From: _____

In Memory/Honor Of: _____

Flower _____

_____ @ 7.95 _____ @ \$17 _____ @ \$20 _____ @ \$32 _____ @ \$35 _____ @ \$36

_____ Include A Bow

TOTAL _____

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

March 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.



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

kking5@hickorytech.net

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Easter Week Schedule



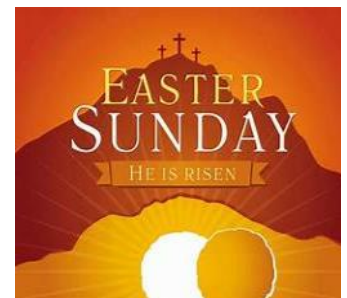
Waterville EUMC
9:30 am
Blooming Grove
10:45 am
Janesville UMC
4:00 pm



Waterville EUMC
7:15 pm



Blooming Grove UMC
7:15 pm



Blooming Grove UMC
7:30 am
Waterville EUMC
9:00 am
Janesville UMC
10:30 am