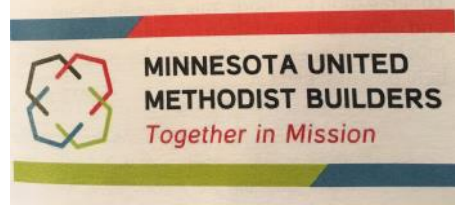




# THE VISITOR

## **Blooming Grove UMC Selected for Minnesota United Methodist Builders “Fall 2021 Call”**



We are excited to announce that BGUMC has been selected by the MN United Methodist Builders organization for their “Fall 2021 Call”! MN UM Builders is a group of hundreds of individuals and churches throughout Minnesota who join together each year to assist churches in their building projects. Their mission is to help MN UMCs connect with their community and welcome new people. Their goal: to assist churches in need of financial support for their building, remodel, or expansion projects. By providing support for the building projects of churches, it allows the churches to grow current ministries or build new ministries to made disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Each year, the MN UMC Builders chooses to support the building projects of two churches across Minnesota - one in the Fall and one in the Spring. The “Fall 2021 Call”, for which we’ve been chosen, runs for 6 months, from October through March, during which time the individuals/churches in this group learn of our story, and our building project, and make donations directly to the MN UM Builders. At the end of the “Call” (early April) BGUMC will receive a check for the total amount donated. Past “Call Recipients” have received anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,000 in donations at the end of the 6-month time-frame.

Here’s the story of how this “Fall 2021 Call” came to be for BGUMC:

- At this summer’s MN UMC Annual Conference, we learned of an organization called the MN United Methodist Foundation (MNUMF), and reached out to them about possible grants to help support our building project.
- In July, the MNUMF connected us with the MN UMC Builders, who, as of December 1, 2020, had merged their administration and resources with the MNUMF. The goal of MN UMC Builders is to offer grants and loans to help churches provide a more welcoming space to connect with their congregation and community. As part of

their December 2020 reorganization - their program is now open to all MN United Methodist Churches in the state, rather than just those in the Metro West District. They were hopeful that a

rural church would be among those applying for their “Fall 2021 Call” - and were delighted that we contacted them. It was divine timing!

- In August, we submitted application forms and supporting documentation to the MN UM Builders, telling the story of our church, our work to make our building accessible and welcoming for all, and our hopes and dreams for future ministry in our community.
- The MN UM Builders reviewed our information and also contacted our District Superintendent, Fred Vanderwerf, for his approval of BGUMC as a potential “Call” recipient. Thanks go to Fred for his ongoing support!
- In mid-September, we received word that we were chosen for the MN UM Builders “Fall 2021 Call” and were also approved for a low-interest loan through their organization, both effective 10/1/2021!
- In October, using the supporting materials that we provided, MN UM Builders created a “Fall 2021 Call - Blooming Grove UMC” brochure, and distributed it to everyone in their network.
- During the next 6 months, the MN UM Builders group has the opportunity to learn more about BGUMC through their “Fall 2021 Call” brochure, our Facebook page, our website, our newsletter, and perhaps even by joining us during Sunday morning worship. Their members are invited to donate as their hearts are called to do so.
- Upon the conclusion of the “Fall 2021 Call”, we at BGUMC are invited to become part of the MN UM Builders group, in the timeframe that we are able, to help other churches in the future.

MN UMC Builders has made copies of their brochure, “Fall 2021 Call - Blooming Grove United Methodist”, available for us as well - so that we can learn more of the work that they do. Help yourself to copies in the back of our sanctuary. Feel free to contact Judy Mahler for additional information.

Thank you to MN UMC Builders for your support!



## Thank you, Lord



*1 Chronicles 29:13  
Now, our God, we give you thanks, and  
praise your glorious name. NIV*

It is time to prepare for our Thanksgiving celebrations! Thoughts of turkey and dressing, bread and pies, corn and cranberries come to mind as I think of the usual bounty of our Thanksgiving meal. And, we can't forget the sweet potatoes (or yams)! Are you a savory—baked potato or yam person or do you prefer them laden with sweet brown sugar, butter, and melted marshmallow goodness? I admit to being the latter. Who needs pumpkin pie when there are candied yams? Oh, but it's Thanksgiving so we can indulge in both! There is so much to be grateful for from those of us blessed with enough.

As we gather in our family celebrations, do we take the time to give thanks and praise to Our God?

It is such a busy time with everyone gathered that our gratitude often is forgotten like the turkey carcass after it's been stripped bare. We can change that. We can begin our festivities by remembering the God who blesses us with the family members who gather, the food that overflows the table space, and the love that surrounds the festivities. As children of God, many are blessed and know the source of our abundance but there are brothers and sisters in the faith who do not realize the blessing of gathering or the tables abundantly laden with food.

We like to shut out thoughts of hunger, oppression, and marginalization but they surround us if we open our eyes to see Creation. God would have you and I see each person through His eyes. It is unpleasant to acknowledge need from a perspective of enough. Can our faith give us the courage to really see the need around us?

Let us show our gratitude to God in a tangible way this year. Our food shelves can always use our help through donations of food or cash. If you're blessed with some free time, consider reaching out to your favorite charity and ask how you can volunteer. Let us celebrate our gratitude to God by action. I can't think of a better way to praise God's glorious name!

Live kindly!

*Pastor Kathy*

**November 2021**

**Blooming Grove**  
**Morning Worship.....8:15 am**  
**Sunday School ...9:00-9:45 am**

**Janesville  
Morning Worship 10:45 am**

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

[illegible]

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00—9:45 am

Wed	3	7:15 pm	PPRC at WV
Tues	9	7:00 pm	Worship Planning Mtg
Tues	16	6:30 pm	All District Conference
Thurs	18	6:00 pm	Brew and Bible at Half-Pint Brewing Company
Sun	21	3:30 pm	Confirmation
Tues	23	6:30 pm	Parish Wide Book Study



2	Cathi Gasner	19	Brady Nelson
6	Ron Engebretson	22	Jason Kosel
11	Nolan Engebretson	24	Sheryl Brisel
11	Lisa Full	26	Alexandria Morgan
15	Kaylee Krell	27	Theresa Riecke
15	Paige Hohertz	29	Roger Wilkowske

### Happy Anniversary

12	Jim & Chery Southworth
22	George & Margie Sharp
26	Don & Char Frankenberry

### Music News



The University of Minnesota Marching Band's 60<sup>th</sup> annual indoor concert will be performed on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at Northrup Auditorium on the Uni-

versity of Minnesota campus. Performances are at 7 pm on Saturday and 2 pm on Sunday. These concerts are always impressive collections of the music that the band has performed this season, as well as school favorites. This is Michael Kanne's senior and final season with the marching band, and he says the concert will be amazing! Tickets are available online. Masks are required inside all University buildings.

### "Brew and Bible"

#### At Half-Pint Brewing Company

6:00 P.M.—Thursday, November 18th

Gather at the big table reserved for this group  
Wrap-up will be around 7:15 or 7:30

For more information, contact  
Pastor Kathy King @ 507-382-2483  
[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)

## Treasurer's Report

September 28—November 1, 2021



**General Budget Income** **\$ 5,098.00**

### Other Income Received

Cemetery	150.00
Mowing	1,000.00
Confirmation Class	126.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 6,375.00</b>

### Expenses

Pastor's Salary (Sept. and Oct.)	3,189.40
Mileage	65.79
Cell Phone (3 months)	82.03
Course of study 32	114.00
Pizza Ranch music	38.00
Excel Energy	108.96
Century Link	101.36
Lawn Mowing	1,225.00
Cleaning	213.75

**Total Paid Out** **\$ 5,138.96**

**(Net Income: + \$ 1,235.04)**

### Building Addition

#### Income

Restoration Income	21,985.00
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#### Expenses

Monthly Loan Payment	\$2,585.00
Lights	576.77

**Total Expenses** **3,161.77**

**(Net Income \$18,823.23)**

Restoration Fund Balance	\$52,129.42
Building Addition Loan	
Balance to date	\$357,864.51
Monies Dispersed	\$45,833.71

### Parish-Wide Book Study

The Prairie Lakes Parish Book Study group continues. Please join us as we dive into what it means to live out God's vision of justice.

*Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom* explores our sometimes uneven history of resisting the evil and violence that damage the world. Something we learned in our study on *Massacre at Sand Creek*. *Bearing Witness* empowers us to imagine God's justice and to lead with compassion. The group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month and will be gathering on November 23rd at 6:30 pm, at BGUMC. Please contact Cindy Saufferer at 507-363-9380 if you are interested and to order a book (\$10.00).



**10/3/21: Prairie Lakes Parish**

## **Worship at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm**

Bright blue skies, beautiful autumn leaves, crisp fall air under a warm sun, and no breeze made for a grand day of faith, fellowship, and fun at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. Over 60 persons of all ages came together from the three churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish to join in outdoor worship and to celebrate World-Wide Communion. Our service was led by Pastor Kathy King and musician Kristin Ziemke of Janesville. After worship, we enjoyed the opportunity to gather around mouth-watering pizzas, play outdoor games, visit the Pizza Farm animals, and take great pictures in the Fall Photo area in the Pizza Farm barn. A huge thank-you to Bill and Emily of the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm for opening their corner of God's creation to us each year for outdoor worship and for their great hospitality.



## **New Church Website!**

Our new BGUMC website is LIVE and can be found at <https://www.bloominggroveumc.org>. Check it out! Click on the Navigation Buttons at the top of our website's Home Page to find the following drop-down lists:

- About: Our Church, Our Pastor, Our History (including a 2020-2021 Construction slide-show and a link to Our Construction Story)
- Ministries: Newsletter, Events, Children/Youth, Adults, Serving Our World
- Photo Gallery
- Donate
- Contact

A HUGE thank you goes to Holly Sobrack and her local business - Westbrack Marketing. BGUMC was blessed to be chosen as a fall 2021 recipient of the "Westbrack Gives Back" program. Holly donated her time, talents, and services to design our new website format, with input from Kristin Krell and Judy Mahler. Holly also worked together with Judy to develop/incorporate updated content/photos, and

with Kristin to incorporate a PayPal online giving option researched and implemented by Kristin (for use with our October Matching Funds Program). Holly's expertise, creativity, patience, and commitment to local community were gifts indeed.

Ongoing administration of the new website is now in the hands of Judy Mahler and Kristin Krell. It will be updated on a monthly basis, or more frequently, as needed. Enjoy!

## **Southern Prairie District Charge Conference**

Registration is now open for our **All District Charge/Church Conference** on **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 6:30pm to 8:00pm via Zoom**. As in the past, the business of this church conference will be handled in the context of worship presided by Fred Vanderwerf, District Superintendent. Be sure to register by **November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Pastor Kathy King if you are interested in attending.







## Hallo-ooo-oooo-ween

By Patti Ellingson

This year Halloween fell on a Sunday, and what a total delight it was that Pastor Kathy declared it would be costume day at church. It was such fun to see all the kids in their various get-ups! A smattering of adults also got in on the act, some wearing some very creative costumes. (I would like to mention here, that the barista did not provide caffeinated hot beverages to us all; alas.) Pastor Kathy dressed up as..... wait for it..... a minister – in her gray suit and clerical collar.



Even with faces painted (or even masked) you could **still** see the kids' smiles as she had them gathered round for the Children's Sermon about the flying(?! Yes!) turtle. And from the back row, Jerry King added a haunting ooo-oooo-ooooo when the sound system mysteriously cut out!

Anyway, what a marvelous family-friendly service we all enjoyed, followed by a vast array of treats courtesy of our E & E Team (no tricks) enjoyed in our new fellowship area. Even un-costumed adults got treats. Then we walked out into a gorgeous sunny day with smiles of happiness and joy. All treats! **All** of it. Amen.

*[Side note from this gramma to you moms with little ones in church: I sorely wish I'd not been so uptight about my kids being **kids** in church. What better place for them to feel comfortable, safe, loved and "at home" than there amongst their church family. We oldies **love** having them in church, whether they're eagerly wandering from one loving "family member" to another, or vroom-vrooming their cars on the wood pews, or "whispering" in an amazingly loud whisper, or crunching on cheerios – they belong amongst us. They are just as important and as valuable to our congregation as any of the adults. And if we miss a piece of the sermon? Who's to say we didn't gain something just as enriching from enjoying your young ones? Bless you for bringing them.]*



### Sunday School Begins

November 7<sup>th</sup>

We invite your children to join us for the "re-opening" of Sunday School after our long break due to COVID-19! We are excited to be together again. All of our Sunday School Rooms are in the north portion of our church building (the Bethel portion). During the Sunday School time, adults may join together in fellowship in the warm sunshine of the gathering space in our new south addition.

- Sunday School Schedule: 9:00 - 9:45 A.M. on Sunday mornings, in November, and then 10:00 - 10:45 A.M. on Sunday mornings from December through May (when our worship time changes to 10:45 A.M.)
- Age 3 - Kindergarten meets in Noah's Room with Patti Ellingson, teacher
- Grades 1-3 meets in the Shepherd's Room, with Brad Saufferer, teacher
- Grades 4-6 meets in the Easter Room with Mike Nicholson, teacher
- Periodic Adventures and Explorations for our 7-12th graders: to be announced



## We Are So Close

By Brad Saufferer

The stairs are done, and they are beautiful, doors are hung, cabinets and baseboard are installed, windows are trimmed, plumbing is done, electrical is done, we are so close.

There is some touch up work to be done on walls which includes some repainting. The new refrigerator for the kitchenette has been on back order since last spring. The concrete floor in the addition must be cleaned due to some overspray. When the touch up and floor cleaning is completed, we can do the final walk through and call it done. We are so close.

As always when projects need to be completed, the congregation steps up and they get done. After the concrete is cleaned, we have volunteers who will stain the floor to give it a professional, finished look. We had a large blank space on the back wall of the sanctuary and Linda Danks created a beautiful, stained glass window quilt that hangs there. Chuck Danks made some door stops out of left-over stair rail that matches the baseboards, it's the little things. Mirrors and accessories for the bathrooms were donated, the list goes on and on.

Come visit, take a look. The most common first comment is "it's beautiful". We are so close.



**Giving Thanks  
- with Grateful  
Hearts  
For October  
Matching  
Funds**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our October matching fund drive to help support the creation of fully accessible entrances, restrooms, and gathering spaces in our new addition. Throughout the month all financial gifts made toward this project would be matched - dollar for dollar - up to \$15,000.

Our sincere thanks go to the anonymous donor who made this matching gift program possible. In the month of October, we received \$22,045 in donations. Adding in the \$15,000 pledged matching funds, that's a total of \$37,045 in gifts given toward our building project! October was an incredible month!

We are humbled by your generosity, and your belief in, and support of, the work that God has done, and will do, through this place and people of the two steeples. Your gifts - from near and far, members, friends, family, acquaintances, and people we have never met - are tangible signs of God's love that enables our church to be more welcoming and inclusive for all.

## Thank you

Thank you to the BG volunteers who worked many hours to help put the Sunday School Rooms, Fire-side Room, and store room in the north portion of our building (the Bethel portion) back in order. They sorted, organized, cleaned sheetrock and cement construction dust, and did deep cleaning and polishing to give these rooms the same sparkle as the new addition and sanctuary. Thank you also to Dave Brisel for creating a new banner-hanging system and to Mike Nicholson who helped install it!



We just wanted to give a HUGE heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped in getting the church ready for Callie & Marcus's wedding. It was amazing to see it all

come together in the weeks heading up to the big day. Even though it may not have been 100% complete, we thought it was absolutely perfect! Everyone who helped in the cleaning, painting, and organizing, along with all our friends and family that came and the beautiful weather that day, we couldn't have asked for anything better. Thank you again,

The Nagel & DeLeon families



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.***

- Area farmers, as they work to finish fall harvest and fall tillage, and as they figure out how to move ahead after the loss of farm equipment due to fire - caused by the dry condition of the harvested beans and corn.
- The two-year-old grand-daughter of a co-worker of Marlis Mahler, who was the victim of a random shooting in August. October was a huge month of progress for her as she was released from the ICU, entered rehab, was able to have the trach removed, and is now recovering at home in the company of her beloved dog! At the hospital, her care providers called her "the little nun" because she wore her BGUMC prayer shawl wrapped all around her - including over her head - wherever she went! Please continue in prayer for her as she continues to regain her health and strength.
- Adam, the nephew of Patti Ellingson's son, who was hit by a car while driving home from work on his motorcycle on a foggy night. As the driver stopped to call for help and lend aid, another car came along and struck Adam while he was down - and the other car drove off - hit and run. Adam is in Regions Hospital with severe injuries throughout his body. He has undergone multiple surgeries - with likely more to come - currently remains on a ventilator, and has a lengthy rehab process ahead. Adam has 2 pre-school age boys who rely heavily on him for care. Please pray for Adam and his family as they travel this difficult journey together.
- The brother-in-law of Linda Danks, who suffered bone fractures as the result of a fall.
- Two U of M class brothers of Michael Kanne - one who recently lost his mother, and the other who was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma.
- Little Kinsley, grand-daughter of Ken and Tena Harren, who continues in the out-patient care of doctors as they study her sleep habits and determine if/when her trach can be removed.
- Prayers of thanks for a "cancer-free" declaration received by both the daughter and the niece of Chuck and Linda Danks!
- Del, a member of Janesville UMC, who has received the news that after heavy-hitting treat-

ments, he is now cancer free.

- Pastor Kathy's mom, Dee - and all of Dee's family - as Dee continues in hospice care at the skilled nursing care facility in Janesville.
- Mary, a member of Janesville UMC, who is dealing with health concerns.
- The nephew of a friend of Marlis Mahler, who is battling drug addiction and is hospitalized due to an overdose.
- Marge, Cindy Saufferer's mom, who faces ongoing health concerns.
- The son of members of Waterville UMC who has COVID, and is hospitalized in Rochester.
- The family of a young Mom who passed away from COVID, leaving behind 3 young daughters and her fiancé.
- One of Pastor Kathy's colleagues who is recovering from COVID and still experiencing after-effects.
- For all others affected by COVID in one way or another.
- For all facing conflict, war, and terror. For those in the path of severe weather, fire, and famine-like conditions. For all working to provide protection, assistance, relief, and rescue to those whose lives are in such danger.
- All in our faith community who privately hold heavy concerns in their hearts. 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, and trust.

## Heartfelt Condolences

Please hold Connie Goslar and her family in your prayers as they walk the path of life now without Connie's

husband, John, who passed away on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at the Minnesota Veteran's Home in Luverne, MN after a long fight with a debilitating disease. During John's years in Luverne, he was a gift to the other residents of the Veteran's Home, taking time to engage them in conversation, listen to their stories and their fears and concerns, request extra help for them from staff if needed, help guide their wheelchairs from one activity to another, lend a helping hand, and be a friend. He was greatly loved by the staff and residents alike. John is survived by his wife, Constance (Rupp) Goslar, three children, Wanda (Dave) McCan, Michael (Kristi) Goslar, and Heather Goslar, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two sisters. A celebration of life service will be held in the future at a date/place yet to be determined.





## FFA News

Congratulations to the Medford FFA Poultry Team who received several honors in the category of Poultry Evaluation at the National FFA Convention! The three-member team - Mason Nagel, Weston Janke, and Ashlin Havumaki - traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana and competed in National Poultry Career Development Events.

This was in addition to completion of several knowledge tests and team activities prior to the convention. Mason Nagel placed Silver and Weston Janke and Ashlin Havumaki both placed Bronze. The team also placed Bronze. Weston Janke and Mason Nagel are both members of BGUMC!

## BGUMC Prayer Shawls

Artisans in our congregation knit/crochet prayer shawls of warmth and love to be given to people in need of support and prayer. Our congregation "loads" each shawl with prayers for its specific recipient before it begins its journey into their lives. We know the power of prayer, for we have seen it at work first hand. Our BGUMC prayer shawl artisans have been hard at work throughout the pandemic and have made many new beautiful prayer shawls to share with family, friends, and acquaintances. Please feel free to request prayers from our congregation - and prayer shawls - both during our Sunday Morning Worship services - or by contacting Pastor Kathy King.



## Kamisamba Farm Corner - November

April 2021 Facebook Post from Kamisamba Farm: Before the installation of solar panels at Kamisamba Farm in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the property had no power source. Electric lines did not extend from the town of Kamina, a little over four miles away. Even in Kamina, particularly during the rainy season, residents can go without electricity for

a month or more. Although the farm has a water source from wells dug a few years ago, without electricity, there was no way to pump the water to where it was needed. Before they installed the solar panels, batteries, inverters and water system, people used the bucket system - going to a well with a bucket! The solar energy system and accompanying water pipes and pumps came about through a combination of grants from Global Ministries' Environmental Sustainability program and United Methodist Committee on Relief.



## Congratulations!



Congratulations to Callie Nagel and Marcus DeLeon who were married at BGUMC on Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Spaghetti Suppers

### Return November 10

Waterville Evangelical Church will be having their monthly spaghetti suppers again! Since the Chicken and Biscuit Dinner went so well, they decided to try having the spaghetti suppers on a take out (drive-up or curb-side) option only. They will be serving Spaghetti, Sauce, Garlic Breadstick, and bars all to go. It will be on a free-will basis as well. Decide what you think the meal is worth and that's what it will cost you! Just drive up to the front of the church (from 5—6:30 pm) and someone will come to your door window to take your order and it will be delivered right back to you. Thanks for your support!



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

**November 2021**

**The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

Physical Address:

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052  
(NE corner of Waseca County)

Mail to: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

Website: [www.bloominggroveumc.org](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

Email: [bloominggroveumc@gmail.com](mailto:bloominggroveumc@gmail.com)

Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency  
and General Pastoral Questions:**

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



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

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**TIME REMINDER**

**Sunday,  
November 7<sup>th</sup>**

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember to set your clocks **back** one hour and sleep in a little.

**DECEMBER TIME CHANGE REMINDER**

**Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup> –  
Blooming Grove UMC and  
Janesville EUMC Change  
Worship Times**



Beginning December 5th, in order to take advantage of the good driving days from June through November and the potentially more difficult driving days that begin in December, Blooming Grove and Janesville will swap service times. This change will give BGUMC time to assess road and driving conditions for Pastor Kathy – and will provide time for BGUMC to clear the parking lot and sidewalks. Janesville service time will begin at 8:15 am and Blooming Grove will switch to the late service at 10:45 am.