



# THE VISITOR

## Community Pantry

What can we do to help serve our local community out here in the northeast corner of Waseca County? A community pantry is one idea. What is it? It's a weather proof box that will include inside the following: non-perishable food items, diapers, school supplies, personal care items, to name a few. Folks can donate supplies for it at anytime and those needing items can stop in at anytime. The pantry would be located near the church.



We are looking for volunteers to build a box. If you know of any youth looking for a community project, send them over. It might be a boy scout, girl scout, 4-H, or FFA project. Let me know if you can help out with construction.

Brad Spinler 507-461-2354 [bspinler@outlook.com](mailto:bspinler@outlook.com)

## When Things Go Right

By Brad Saufferer

So, this morning a thunderstorm rolled through at about 6:30 and the power to the farm was cut to about fifty percent. Lights flickered, coffee maker ran really slow, delaying my cup of morning motivation, and my forehead itched in anticipation of the pain in the neck my morning was about to be. Then the power failed completely. Since this is a dairy farm and cows like to drink their water, I rolled out the PTO generator and fired it up. We have had a new electrical service installed since the last time we used the generator, and I could not make it work. Saving my head from further itching, brother Bruce walked over and reminded me there was one more lever to throw and we had power again. It was time to get back to my morning routine of drinking coffee and watching Big City Greens with my granddaughter, a highly intellectually stimulating program, not a cartoon. Everything worked except the well. It's times like these that the wise words of Mike Nicholson come to mind, "it ain't never not nuthin".

A trip to Bomgaars and two fuses later, all was well, no pun intended. It was a morning when all did not go right.

While this was not a morning where everything went right, the fish fry at the Half Pint was an event where things did. Carol Karsten talked to me after church on Sunday and said she noticed that at the fish fry, people from the congregation were sitting in lawn chairs conversing. When people showed up to eat, everyone jumped up and started serving. No one said anything. They all just grabbed spoons and tongs and started dishing things up. We are truly a blessed congregation filled with people with common sense and a great work ethic. We had a greeter out front greeting and guiding people through the line, two people helping park cars, the brain trust minus Justin Krell, something about having to get the peas harvested, running the fryers, and several people serving food. The line moved slowly at times, once again, we will add another fryer next year.



I would like to raise up some of the youth in the church that did a standout job. Weston Janke fried French fries to perfection and Raelyn Janke and Jackie Mathern prepared the best root beer floats ever (a testimony given by multiple children in the congregation, who I trust entirely to be experts on the subject). To the rest that helped, thank you. You all make things like this possible without fuss or bother; without you, the church and the community would suffer.

Having sufficiently buried the lead, I am proud to say we served over two hundred fifty guests and raised over four thousand dollars for the accessibility project. An achievement to be proud of and one that has raised the bar for next year. Things just keep getting better.

**Prayer Brunch**  
**Mama's Mercantile. Elysian**  
**August 16 - 11:30 am**  
**All are Welcome**



## Patience



*"Therefore, as God's choice, holy and loved,  
put on compassion, kindness, humility,  
gentleness, and patience".  
Colossians 3: 12 CEB*

In this season of growth, I wander through our lawn regularly to see my flowers. In August, many of the Spring blooms are a memory, the lilies are nearly done blooming, and the dahlias are beginning their season's beautiful blooms—each flower type has a season of beauty. Gardening requires patience and work. I admit, the weeds may be winning the battle today. It seems it was just late May with summer's promise. Here we are, entering August!

We are in a week of extreme heat as I write this. As a Mom, I worry about my guys—especially our youngest who works outdoors much of the summer. I pray for all who are outdoor workers in these extreme weather conditions. We are reminded of the patience we need to journey through these days of heat—waiting for cooling rain and that beautiful northerly breeze.

We have one more “summer” month before we enter full steam into the activities fall brings with the beginning of our school year. I know many youths are in the season of boredom and looking forward to school and friends again. Patience wears thin for those who are young. But friends, patience wears thin for many of us who want the church to return to the glory days when our pews were filled for Sunday morning worship. As a garden is planted and we wait for the seedlings, I believe God has a new plan for the church and if we are patient, God will reveal what that plan is. It's not easy waiting and wondering but we have things to do in our waiting. We are called to plant seeds of discipleship, we are challenged to be disciples of Jesus Christ in action—not just word, and we are called to patience as we hope for God to lead us into the new way of being the Church of Jesus Christ.

May we put on put on the compassion, kindness, gentleness, and patience of the disciples of Jesus Christ with our neighbors, our families, and friends. May we show our world that we are patient in our work to further the kin-dom of God.

In our living, let it be so.

*Pastor Kathy*

## AUGUST CALENDAR

**Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.**

### August

3	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
10	Thur	7:00 pm	Parish PPRC meeting at JV
13	Sun	9:15 am	Pop-Up Choir Practice at BG
15	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Half Pt.
16	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Mama's Merchantile in Elysian
16	Wed	7:00 pm	Pop-Up Choir Practice at JV
7	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
20	Sun	9:15 pm	Pop-up Choir Practice at JV
20	Sun	10:15 am	All Parish Service at JV
22	Tues		Peach delivery at WV
23	Wed	7:00 pm	"The Stretch" Book Study at BG
27	Sun	8:15 am	Hymn Sing Worship led by members of BG
31	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave

### Sept

3	Sun	8:15 am	Lorraine Charinda, guest speaker at BG
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## Plan to join us for these Special Sundays!

### Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup> – 10:15 A.M.

Prairie Lakes Parish Combined Worship Service at Janesville UMC with 9:15 A.M. Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal

### Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 A.M.

Hymn Sing Worship at BGUMC while Pastor Kathy participates in MN UMC Conference Shmita work. Contact Judy Mahler to join in creating and/or leading the service!

### Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8:15 A.M.

Special Guest, Lorraine Charinda at BGUMC

### Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> – 8:15 A.M.

Lay-led worship service at BGUMC while Pastor Kathy participates in MN UMC Conference Shmita work. Contact Judy Mahler to join in creating and/or leading the service!

### Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 A.M.

Worldwide Communion Sunday and Prairie Lakes Parish Combined Worship Service and Pizza Lunch at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. We will be joined by our new Southern Prairie District Superintendent, Woojae Im.

## Treasurer's Report

June 26—June 21, 2023



<b>General Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 5,393.75</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Sale of Hay	300.00
Cemetery	100.00
Visitor	10.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,803.75</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor's Salary	1,959.32
Telephone	52.46
Excel Energy	82.16
Lawn Mowing (Janke Farms)	1,100.00
Cleaning	120.00
Pirkel Gas (prebuy 23-24 heating)	2,615.62
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 5,929.56</b>
<b>(Net Income:)</b>	<b>— \$125.81</b>

### Building Addition

<b>Income</b>	
Restoration	\$ 890.00
Fish Fry	4,014.73
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 4,904.73</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Loan Payment	\$ 3,505.13
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 3,505.13</b>
<b>(Net Income:)</b>	<b>+ \$1,399.60</b>

Restoration Fund Balance	\$77,987.76
Building Addition Loan	\$268,034.95

### Happy Anniversary

4	Luke & Bobbi Mathern
13	Brad & Tracie Spinler
17	Elizabeth & Jeff Bartosch
22	Jessica & Aaron Buchholz
23	Chuck & Linda Danks
26	Kyle & Becky Lustig
28	Greg & Tanecka Poe
31	Gerard & Karen LaFond



4	Mike Nicholson
7	Chuck Danks
11	Brian Kanne
11	Brian Loken
13	Cecilia Nicholson
20	Mikayla Janke
25	Jacob Blake
25	Tyler Kosel
27	Summer Goldsmith

## 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.*



- The family of Anita Swift, from Waterville EUMC, as they mourn her loss after a brief battle with an aggressive form of cancer.
- Kathy, a friend of Dick and Trudi, who is fighting cancer.
- The extended family of Pastor

Kathy's cousin, Linda, as they mourn her passing.

- Family, friends, and former congregations (including Janesville and Elysian UMCs) of Pastor Alcyd N. Soderfelt, of Ely, who passed away this month.
- The family of Mike Pierce, who are dear friends of Nicole Wacek—mourning the passing of Mike.
- For Hjordi Churchill's friend, Cindy, who is recovering from major surgery.
- 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.

## Prayers for Recovery after a Fire

Please hold a special place in your hearts and prayers for Dustin and Christine Sletten (Christine is the sister of Michael Janke) of West Concord. Dustin, Christine, and their 7 children lost everything to an early morning fire on Friday, 7/21/23, including the house, garage, all contents, everything related to their business, and three of their loving animals. This family has opened their hearts and home to many foster children in the last several years and have also adopted several children along their journey. They are a wonderful, caring couple who would help anyone in need. They have five children in the Kenyon-Wanamingo School District this fall.



If you are interested in helping the Slettens, checks may be written to Christine Sletten or Dustin Sletten and mailed to Heritage Bank MN, attn. Christina Peterson, PO Box 245, 181 Main Street, West Concord, MN 55985. For other donations, check out Facebook – Christina Wetzstein Peterson – GoFundMe page: Sletten Fire Fund

## In Sympathy



**Joyce Karsten Muehlen**, age 79 passed away on July 15, 2023. An avid knitter and baker, her friends and family never wanted for tokens of affection. After over four decades as a nurse, her love and care was known to many in her community.

She was preceded in death by her husband Frederick, parents Gertrude and Sylvester Karsten and brother George. Joyce's spirit will be carried by her children, Aimee (Rick) Hamel and Cameron (Katie) Muehlen and grandchildren Frederick and Sophia Muehlen. She is also survived by sisters Carol, Nancy, friends and family. Joyce grew up in our BGUM Church.

**Mark Wayne Devery**, age 60, of Menomonie, WI passed away on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Mark was born November 1, 1962, in Rochester, MN. He was the son of Wayne and Nancy (Ferguson) Devery, and grew up in Menomonie, WI. Mark graduated from Menomonie High School in 1981. He received a degree in Police



Science from the Eau Claire Technical School and a degree in Criminal Justice from Mount Scenario (MT) in Ladysmith, WI. Mark joined the Dunn County Sheriff's Department as a Dispatcher, Jailer, and Deputy, and served over 27 years. Mark married Rita Pittman and together they had two children and later divorced. Mark was an avid Minnesota Viking fan. He enjoyed playing the drums, fishing and campfires at the family lake home. Mark loved spending time in Siesta Key, Florida (as a fourth generation). Mark is survived by his daughter Melissa (Jake) Andrlle, his son, Ryan Devery, a grandson, Levi Devery, his mother, Nancy Devery, a sister Susan (Richard) Deal, fiancée, Dawn Karsten, and his beloved dogs Shep and Harper. (Dawn Karsten is the daughter of Carol and Don Karsten. Dawn's address is 2317 Tower Ridge Ave., Menominee, Wisconsin 54751.)

## Thank You

Dawn Karsten (Carol's daughter) would like to thank everyone for their prayers and the purple prayer shawl for her fiancée, Mark Devery, as he was hospitalized at the University of Wisconsin Madison Hospital – awaiting a liver and kidney transplant. Purple was Mark's favorite color.

# Run For The Loaves Registration Form

## Blooming Grove UMC Fall Food Shelf Fundraiser



Saturday, September 9th, 2023  
4 Mile Run/Walk  
Kids 1/4 Mile Run

Registration: 8:30 am  
Kids 1/4 Mile Run: 9:15 am  
4 Mile Walk: 9:30 am  
4 Mile Run: 10:00 am

Registration Fee: \$25.00  
Kids Run (12 & Under) \$3.00  
Entry fee will be waived if participant submits a donation of \$50 or more.

**“Run 4 the Loaves” T-Shirts** will be available on the day of the race for those who register by September 3rd for the 4-mile run/walk. Be sure to indicate your T-shirt size. T-shirts for those who register after the deadline may be sent at a later date. If no size is indicated, the cost of the shirt will be donated.

**Prizes:** An awards ceremony will commence when the last participant finishes. Awards will be given to the top age-group finishers and the best over-all male/female. A special award will be presented to the participant who raises the most donations for the Food Shelves.



### Age Groups:

Under 12 **13-19** 20-29 **30-39** 40-49 **50-59** 60-69 **70+**

**Additional Info:** Everyone will receive a number at registration which must be worn during the race. Restrooms will be available at the event site. Water stops will be available on the course with refreshments waiting at the finish line.

**Course:** Utilizing both paved and gravel roads, through the fields of ripening corn and soybeans, the race will begin and end at the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church, located on the Steele/Waseca County line.

**Questions:** Contact Brad Saufferer  
Phone: 507-363-6579  
E-mail: [runfortheloaves@yahoo.com](mailto:runfortheloaves@yahoo.com)

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Food Shelf: I wish to support \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size  S  M  L  XL

**Waiver:** I understand that running/walking a road race is a potentially dangerous activity. I should not enter and run/walk unless I am medically able and properly trained. **I understand that entry fees and donations are non-transferable. I also understand that if the race is cancelled due to inclement weather, my registration fee and/or donation will not be reimbursed but donated to the Food Shelve indicated above.** I assume all risks associated with participation in the event including but not limited to: falls, contact with other participants or spectators, the effect of the weather including heat or cold temperatures, traffic or conditions of the roads, all such risks being known and appreciated by me. Having read this waiver and knowing these facts and in consideration of our accepting my entry, I for myself and anyone entitled to act for my behalf, waive and release Blooming Grove United Methodist Church from all claims or liabilities of any kind arising out of my participation in this event even though that liability might arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons named in this waiver. **I have read and agree to the above.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent or guardian if under 18)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fee \_\_\_\_\_

Food Shelf Donation (\$50+) \_\_\_\_\_

For directions to Blooming Grove UMC  
“The Two-Steepled Church on the Prairie”  
go to [www.bloominggroveumc.org](http://www.bloominggroveumc.org)

Mail this form/entry fee to:  
Blooming Grove UMC  
PO Box 171  
Medford, MN 55049-0171

Make checks payable to:  
Blooming Grove UMC  
Denote “Food Shelves” on  
the memo line

## Conversations with Sally Vonner

We said "Yes" to an exciting opportunity and changed our July Bible Conversations to Friday, July 21st at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm in order to welcome special guest, Sally Vonner! Sally (2<sup>nd</sup> from left)



from left) is the new General Secretary and CEO for United Women in Faith (UWinF). While in MN for a number of meetings and conferences, she stayed with Brad and Cindy Saufferer. As MN UWinF President, Cindy served as Sally's host and driver, and as part of the week, introduced Sally to a number of MN UWinF programs and members. We were delighted to join in conversation with Sally at the Pizza Farm – and also welcomed a UWinF member from Northfield (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) to our supper! Sally brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her new role. Follow this link to learn more about her. <https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/united-women-in-faith-board-elects-sally-vonner-general-secretary-and-ceo>

In Sally's words: "My primary focus is to continue and expand the mission and reach of United Women in Faith as we put our love and faith in action to change the world, and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world."

## Lorraine Charinda Visits from the DRC (by Ryan Saufferer)



Lorraine Charinda of the Kamisamba Farm Umc NorthKatanga

While Blooming Grove runs for our loaves, Lorraine Charinda itinerates for hers. Traveling over 11,500 miles, the equivalent of running our run for the loaves course 2,875 times, **Lorraine will be visiting and speaking to our churches of the Prairie Lakes Parish on September 3<sup>rd</sup>** about her mission in the Republic of Congo.

With her Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Natural Resources from Africa University in Zimbabwe, and a Master of Science in Agricultural Economics from the University of Namibia, Lorraine teaches lessons close to our rural congregations' hearts, productive and sustainable agricultural practices. Her early focus began with a 'teaching the teachers' course, where she taught farmers from all over the Republic of Congo how to farm and teach others what they learned. This course alone spread her teachings and practices to 21 of the 24 districts in the Republic of Congo. Lessons that have changed innumerable lives in a country where 80% of the population live below the poverty line and 90% scratch out a living through subsistence farming that, more-often-than-not, left their stomachs empty and lives too impoverished to afford education for their children, or it did before Lorraine began her mission.

You are invited and encouraged to listen to Lorraine tell her story on how teaching a man to farm can change a nation and maybe learn something new yourself; it's never too late for an old farmer to learn new tricks.

To learn more about Lorraine's mission, find her story on the Global Ministry website: <https://umcmission.org/missionary-bio/3022397/>.

## Hands around the World Global Mission Offering August/September



In addition to helping raise funds for local food shelves in the months ahead, we are also offering an opportunity to help support two global mission partners of the United Methodist Church:

- The work of T.P. and J.P. in SE Asia, both of whom we were privileged to meet during morning worship on June 11<sup>th</sup>.
- The work of Lorraine Charinda and the Kamisamba Farm & Training Center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are excited to meet Lorraine in person during morning worship on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**To contribute to this special offering:** By September 30<sup>th</sup>, please make your check out to BGUMC with "Global Mission Offering" in the memo line or written on your offering envelope. All proceeds will be split 50/50 between the two programs. For each \$10 contributed, we will add a "Helping Hand" to the world map located in the back of the sanctuary. Let's wrap these folks in our hands and hearts of love!

## The Stretch

*Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is heaven.* Matt 6:10 (NRSV)

Welcome back to *The Stretch*, a corner of *The Visitor* where we consider what it means to show up as love in the world through justice.

An important lesson I learned when I moved to Minnesota is that summer is precious. We stuff as much fun as we can into the idyllic summer days, and I find myself a bit blurry eyed by the end of July. Squeezed between relaxing trips to the lake, exciting games of Marco Polo with my grandkids, and finding a quiet minute to read on my own, I also facilitate Mission U, formerly School of Christian Mission, hosted by United Women in Faith. This year's study, *Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation*, did a deep dive into the familiar prayer considering exactly what Jesus was calling the disciples to. Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign of God. In fact, Jesus mentions the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience.

I am sure you noticed the word kin-dom and may be scratching your head in a curious way, at least I am hoping I have piqued your interest! Within our earthly realm, kingdom represents power in which nations dominate other nations intending to increase their "sphere of influence", while claiming more resources, wealth, and power; behaviors Jesus criticized the authorities of his day, and actions still perpetuated by today's governing bodies. Jesus teaches us that the fullness of life could not and cannot be attained through the oppression of others, an inherent byproduct of the 'kingdom' mindset. Instead, Jesus directs us to follow a kin-dom mentality that leads us toward a relationship with the entirety of creation. This perspective recognizes that all life is created in the image of God, allowing for an alternative order of things within the family of God where we work together for love and justice.

Here are a few opportunities to build kin-dom in our corner of the world:

### **Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 pm, Blooming Grove UMC**

Join me as we enter a safe space to learn and ask questions about a topic that has been at the forefront of our denomination, communities, and families; LGBTQ+ inclusion. I will be using a variety of reference books to facilitate from including, *The Savvy Ally* by Jeannie Gainsburg. If you so desire, read the book, but it is unnecessary. The only requirement is to bring yourself completely open to being stretched.

My recommended summer read is *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger. It is a novel about "four orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression". We will gather in September to dig a little deeper into the history of boarding schools in our country.

**Future opportunity:** Bible Study: *Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation*. Details to come.

*Remember in your hearts that we are kin, with each other and with God's creation in this place and beyond. Our love for each other will remind us of that kinship as we walk the journey together.*

Much Peace,  
Cindy Saufferer,  
Prairie Lakes Parish

**Blooming Grove  
United Methodist Church  
Board Council Meeting  
July 12, 2023**



# Church Council Meeting

*June:*

- Parish Conversation RE future of UM Denomination in these times of change and transition – led by Cindy Saufferer and Fred Vanderwerf, hosted by WV

## **Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary**

In attendance: Brad Spinler, Brad & Cindy Saufferer, Carolyn Kanne, Pastor Kathy & Jerry King, Judy Mahler, Nicole Wacek, Patty Ellingson

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Kathy

**Review of April 2023 meeting:** approved by consensus .

## **Financial Reports:**

- Treasurer's Report: Cindy moved to accept, seconded by Judy – motion carried.
- Financial Secretary Report: We are pretty much on track with 10% going to outreach.

## **Trustees Report:**

- Kitchen tile line update – for water use. Brad reported that Dahle's resealed and insulated the top of the septic tank. They were going to look at the kitchen problem, but haven't followed up. Brad is going to check with Nagel's, as they know something about tunneling equipment.
- Chair dollies for moving stackable chairs: Judy asked if we could obtain a dolly (or two) for moving chairs between the Fireside Room and the Entry area. Brad Spinler thought this might be something Mike Karsten could make for us. He and Brad Saufferer will work on a design and talk to Mike. We decided on UMC red.
- The trustees have gotten new flags and new hooks for the flags.

## **Old Business**

### **April 10th – June 30th Recap**

*April – May:*

- BG folks donated \$321.95 to the MN UMC Conference Love Offering – going to support MN mental health services as well as the MN UMC Volunteer in Mission program
- BG folks donated supplies for, and assembled, 62 Personal Dignity Kits to be sent to Midwest Distribution Center to be disbursed in the USA and worldwide for people in crisis situations. Approximate value of \$14 per kit = \$868 in donated items.

*May:*

- BG Confirmation Sunday: Confirmands Raelyn Janke and Leighton Nicholson
- BG Celebration Sunday: Honored/thanked all involved in congregational life and presented Bibles to our children/youth

EUMC

- BG hosted special guests, T.P. and J.P. who serve in Southeast Asia, for morning worship, with congregational brunch following
- BG hosted our June Parish Joint Worship Service, and lunch following, and led the Pop-Up Choir
- Annual Conference Updates from BG Delegate (Judy) and Deaconess (Cindy) – this will take place at our joint service in Waterville

## **Team Reports**

### *2023 Missions*

- Church Pantry: Brad Spinler asked if there would be interest in pursuing an outside pantry box (like a Little Library) that could be stocked with non-perishable items for the surrounding community. We will include an article in the Visitor to gauge interest in building something. Brad will be the contact.
- Community connection resource people in our midst: We have several folks in the congregation that have contacts for possible local missions. Nicole Wacek is involved with Rachel's Light, the Exchange Club Center for Family Unity (which serves a 5-county area), Hospitality House, the Steele County Humane Society, and Community Pathways. Bobbi Mathern works for South Central Human Relations Center. Matt Mullenbach serves on the Medford Fire Department (as does one of Nicole's cousins). Carolyn has contacts at Medford school.
- Possible creation of a Missions Team: The idea of creating this team is to get interested parties together to focus the mission opportunities. We will ask the congregation for volunteers. Judy will write something up for the Visitor.
- Mission/Outreach possibilities for 3rd & 4th quarter – mentioned in casual conversation by BG folks: 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter we will focus on global missions – Vietnam (for our visiting missionaries) and Kamasamba Farm (Lorraine will also be visiting in the near future.). There is interest in a mission trip of some kind. Also CONAM would appreciate \$25/month per church to help fund church plants in areas of need.

## **Education and Events**

### *Adult Learning Opportunities*

- Bible Studies: continuing at Cool Wave Coffee in Waterville



## Board Council Meeting—Continued

- Bible Conversations at Half Pint: monthly. Still figuring out location for July, or if we skip it.
- Love through Justice (Cindy) “The Stretch” opportunities: Visitor article every month from Cindy.

### *Sunday School – in summer mode*

- Confirmation this fall: Poppy will be in 2<sup>nd</sup> year; Gabe would be the right age to begin.

### Events:

- July Fish Fry: moving forward
- September Events? The Run for the Loaves is 9/9, along with the rib cookoff.
- Community Music Night & Supper sometime this fall? Maybe in November? Lindy Zabel’s groups are still active and would be willing to come. They take only a \$100 fee as long as the event is a benefit. Cindy mentioned Kay Roberts also has a musical group.
- Note: the Steele County Food Shelf is now serving 800 families per week, so any funds we would raise for them would be much appreciated.

### PPRC

- BGUMC Profile submitted to MN UMC Conference: Usual radius for this is 6 miles – we asked to enlarge ours to 20 (this was allowed).
- Parish Worship Schedule: conversations are happening about how to allocate the “prime worship time” more fairly.

### Worship

- Summer Joint Worship Services: Waterville, last Sunday in July; Janesville, 2<sup>nd</sup> last Sunday in August.
- Options for Last Sunday in August: all of our normal pulpit supply is unavailable that day. We will probably do a hymn sing, with members leading liturgy.
- First Sunday in October at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm: October 1. All set up.

### Pastor’s Report

- Reflections/Comments: feel free to approach Kathy with any comments or concerns.
- Confirmation 23/24: covered earlier
- 2023 MN UMC Conference Shmita Program update
- Shmita gathering in the Twin Cities August 14-15<sup>th</sup>: sacred sites tour
- Pastor’s sabbatical: Week 1: August 21-27<sup>th</sup>; Week 2: September 5-12<sup>th</sup>
  - ◊ Sunday worship pulpit supply is needed: August 26<sup>th</sup> and September 10<sup>th</sup> (Dave Wollin is available 9/10)

- Associate Membership progress: 14 pages are done! 3 questions left to address.

### Miscellaneous

#### *Historian:*

Michael has been scanning various certificates and other items from a box in the back room. Discussion of where to hang the Memorial Book box.

### New Conference Staffing under the direction of Bishop Lanette Plambeck

- New Southern Prairie District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Woojae Im - living in the Twin Cities
- Elimination of all District Offices and consolidation of that work in a “Support Center” located in Twin Cities MN UMC Conference Office
- Fred Vanderwerf new role: part-time assistant to the bishop for transitions and development - and part-time liaison for ministry with the UMCs in the Ukraine

**Next Meeting Date: October 11, 7:00 pm**

**Closing Prayer: Cindy**

## Invitation to join a new team being formed:

### The BGUMC Missions Team!

At our July Council meeting, we reflected on our long-standing BG legacy of commitment to the scriptural imperative of “Growing in Love of God & Neighbor - Healing a Broken World”. We asked ourselves how, going forward, we could tap into the wealth of wisdom, experience, and connections of people in our BG midst who are passionate about exploring ways that we can continue serving our neighbors – locally, in MN, in the US, and globally.

Out of this conversation – a new team is in the process of being born – The BGUMC Missions Team! Holding current BG mission focuses in high regard, the team will also dream about, look for, assess, and offer additional opportunities in which we can be involved.

We invite you to join this brand-new team to share your ideas and hearts for mission. Please contact Cindy Saufferer or Judy Mahler if you are interested. We anticipate that the team will begin gathering in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2023.



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August 2023

### The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

#### Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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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

#### Join Us

If you are interested in  
becoming a member of  
Blooming Grove UMC,  
see Pastor Kathy.



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

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### FUN AND FOOD (Fall Food Shelf Fund-raiser)



With the September 9<sup>th</sup> date set for the Run for the Loaves and the Holy Hog cookoff things are heating up. Even more controversy this year than last. Accusations of rule bending if not outright cheating abound. More on that later.

First, for those who missed the cookoff last year, the rules. The cookoff committee provides the ribs the evening before and the morning of the event, and the ribs must be ready by noon. There is no entry fee, and the winner is determined by people dropping money in their basket after sampling all the ribs. The team with the most money in their basket wins the elegant and prestigious Holy Hog trophy.

Last year's biggest controversy: Team Trojan Meats, headed by Gil Christesen, was declared winner. The controversy was that he served smoked mac and cheese with his ribs. The mac and cheese was excellent. Team Stang Good Ribs, Brad Spinler and the brain trust, were those that protested the loudest; comments about sore losers were bandied about. I pointed out in a follow up article last fall, that they were probably unhappy that they didn't think of it first.

Teams from the Waterville and Janesville churches will be here again this year. The Janesville Church's team, headed by Julie King, does a great St. Louis style rib. The Waterville Church's team, headed by Bill Olsen, improves every year and looks to be a contender this year. Hopefully, Blooming Grove's own Luke Mathern, will be grilling again this year. He's always entertaining.

The boys cross country team from Owatonna will be running the race again this year. Another testament to what great coaching looks like. I want to remind everyone that this is a run/walk event, and I encourage everyone to come out and walk or run the course. Again, this year, we will have people participating virtually. Those that want to do this can register and run or walk the four miles wherever they are and send a picture if they like. **All proceeds from both events benefit area food shelves.**

For all those who want to run or grill and have questions, contact me at 507-363-6579 or email me at [b\\_saufferer@msn.com](mailto:b_saufferer@msn.com). Run entry forms can be found on the church website, and if you would like to participate in the cookoff, let me know by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Hope to see you there.

# August 2023

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

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

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

<b>Parment Color For August is Green</b>		1	2	3 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV	4	5
		6	7	8 4-6 pm Diaper Give-away at WV	9	10 7:00 pm Parish PPRC meeting at JV
12	13 9:15 am Pop-Up Choir Practice at BG	14	15 6 pm Bible Conversation at Half Pint	16 11:30 Prayer Brunch at Mama's Mer- chantile. 7 pm Pop-Up Choir prac- tice at JV	17 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV	18  Pastor's Day Off
<b>Steele County Fair</b>						
19	20 9:15 am Pop- Up Choir Prac- tice at JV 10:15 am All Parish Worship at JV	21	22 Peaches deliv- ery date at WV	23 7 pm "The Stretch" Book Study at BG with Cindy Sauf- ferer	24	25  Minnesota State Fair
26 10-noon Diaper Give- away at WV	27 8:15 am Hymn Sing Worship led by members of BG	28	29	30	31 9:30 am Parish Bible Study at Cool Wave Coffee Shop, WV	Pastor's Day Off
<b>Sunday, September 3rd 8:15 am Blooming Grove UMC Special Guest Speaker Lorraine Charinda</b>						
<b>Minnesota State Fair thru September 4th</b>						