



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 90, Issue 3

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

March 2025



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Join us!

If you are interested in
becoming a member of
BGUMC, see Pastor Kathy

**Daylight Savings Time –
Spring Ahead!**

Remember to move your clocks ahead
one hour on Sunday, March 9th!



Lent



Prairie Lakes Parish Lent & Holy Week Services

Ash Wednesday

March 5th, 7:00 P.M. at Blooming Grove UMC

Combined Sunday Morning Lenten Service

March 30th, 10:15 A.M. all three churches of
our parish will gather for worship at Blooming
Grove UMC, with Combined
Choir Rehearsal at 9:15 A.M.
Coffee/Juice and Refreshments
to follow the service.

Maundy Thursday

April 17th, 7:00 P.M. at Janesville UMC

Good Friday

April 18th, 7:00 PM. At Waterville EUMC

Palm Sunday—April 13th

8:15 A.M. at Janesville UMC

9:30 A.M. at Waterville Evangelical UMC

10:45 A.M. at Blooming Grove UMC

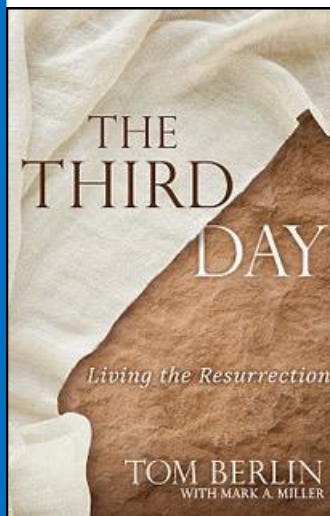
Easter Sunday – April 20th

7:30 A.M. at Blooming Grove UMC

9:00 A.M. at Waterville EUMC

10:30 A.M. at Janesville UMC

Prairie Lakes Parish Lenten Study The Third Day: Living the Resurrection



Come join our Parish
Lenten Study, based on
the 2025 MN UMC
Conference Lenten
Study Book “The Third
Day: Living the Resur-
rection”.

Pastor Kathy and Cin-
dy Saufferer will lead
these times of conver-
sation and reflection at
7:00 P.M. on the
Wednesday evenings
listed below. Please
contact either of them

to request a book. (You don’t have to read the
book to join in on the conversation.)

- March 12th at Janesville UMC
- March 19th at Waterville EUMC
- March 26th at Blooming Grove UMC
- April 2nd at Janesville UMC
- April 9th at Waterville EUMC




In his book, author Tom Berlin (United Methodist minister and bishop) uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and the disciples at Emmaus, as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. See how the resurrection transforms their lives – and how it can transform ours!

March 2025

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

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

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

Parament Colors March 2 White March 9 Purple March 16 Purple March 23 Purple March 30 Purple		** Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at Blooming Grove.					1
2	3	4	5 6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV 7 pm Joint Ash Wednesday Service at BG 	6 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	7		8
9	10	11	4-6 pm Free Diaper Give-away at WV	12 11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Oscar's 6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV 7 pm Lenten Study at JV	13 9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave in WV 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	14 Fish Fry 4:30-7 pm (or until fish is gone) at BG Pastor's Day Off	15
16	17	18	6 pm Bible Conversations at Half Pint Brewery 	19 5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper at WV 6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV 7 pm Lenten Study at WV	20 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail 	21 Pastor's Day Off	22
23	24	25	26 6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV 7 pm Lenten Study at BG	27 9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave in WV 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail	28		29
30	April 1	April 2	6-8 pm Jesus Food at the Faribault Mall			Pastor's Day Off	

MARCH CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sundays)

5	Wed	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service at BG
12	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Oscar's
12	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Study at JV
13	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave in WV
14	Fri	4:30-7 pm	Fish Fry at BG
16	Sun	2:00 pm	Confirmation at WV
18	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations at Half Pint
19	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Study at WV
19	Wed	5-6:30 pm	Spaghetti Supper at WV
26	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Study at BG
27	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave in WV



Don't miss the Spaghetti Supper at Waterville EUMC on Wednesday, February 19th from 5-6:30 pm

Easter Breakfast

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



Looking Ahead to April

Wednesday, April 2, is Jesus Food at the Fari-bault Mall from 6-8 pm. Anyone who wishes to help pack food is welcome!

Change in Date for April Council Meeting

Our April BGUMC Council meeting has been changed to Tuesday, April 8th at 7:00 P.M. in order to accommodate our Prairie Lakes Parish Lenten Wednesday Evening Book Study.



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

Treasurer's Report

February 2025



General Budget Income	\$ 3,960.05
Cemetery	50.00
Men's Breakfast	20.00
Waseca Food Shelf Offering	450.00
Workman's Comp Reimbursement	191.00

Total Income 4,671.05

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	2,268.75
Excel Energy	90.75
Century Link	57.72
Britton Plumbing	633.32
Waseca Food Shelf	450.00

Total Paid Out \$ 3,500.54

(Net Income: + \$1,170.51)

Building Addition

Income

Restoration	\$ 850.00
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Total Income \$ 850.00

Expenses

Loan Payment	\$ 5,505.11
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Total Paid Out \$ 5,505.11

(Net Income: — \$4,655.11)



3	Justin Krell	20	Lauri Remund
4	Jerry Ellingson	22	Hjordi Churchill
5	Ken Harren	22	Brian Kosel
6	Connie Goslar	22	Cody Kosel
6	Trudi Remund Fisher	24	Abigail Buchholz
6	Val Mullenbach	24	Brianna Yule
14	Tom Wacek	26	Ila Prchal
19	Sebastian Fyvie	27	Judy Mahler
		27	Karrie VanZuilen
		28	Luke VanZuilen
		31	Andrea Stockdale

**Psalm 37:3
(Common English Bible):**

**Trust the Lord and do good;
live in the land,
and farm faithfulness.**



Another Lenten Journey



And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near. Hebrews 10: 24-25 CEB

I shared during a recent worship service that as I was planning on our March 2nd (Transfiguration Sunday) worship service, I was reminded that Ash Wednesday quickly follows. So, we find ourselves at the door of another Lenten journey. In our busy lives, we have yet another opportunity to step into a closer relationship with Christ as we decide if we'll walk more closely in our faith journeys this year—a wonderful opportunity to continue meeting as we are encouraged to do so. Wednesday evenings will offer the opportunity to participate in Tom Berlin's The Third Day, a Lenten study that explores the resurrection experiences of Mary, Peter, Thomas and others. Cindy Saufferer and I will lead our weekly discussions and it is our hope that each of us discovers a deeper understanding of our Resurrected Christ. If you'd like to participate in the study, talk to Cindy or me and we'll get you a study guide. If you'd like more information about the study, visit our MN Annual Conference website at: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/2025-lenten-study-a-conversation-with-bishop-tom-berlin-18908482>. Our Sunday worship during Lent will focus on our United Methodist Discipleship Ministries Series, "Steadfast Love, A Lenten Playlist." I'm looking forward to our journey.



Most of you are aware that Jerry and I have a new family member. Edward (Eddie-- Eddie is a CavaPoo who should grow to about 20 to 22 lbs.) came to his furever home last week and yes, I've been reminded by most of my family members that I said no dogs until I retired. So—I jumped the gun by a couple of years. Training a puppy is not for the faint of heart so I think it's better that I jump that hurdle before my 70th birthday. What a joy it is to have a puppy on my lap again. I apologize to those of you who have regularly seen my pics! I admit, it's almost as many as Milo!

Friends, please continue to pray for the Ukraine. Our former DS, Fred Vanderwerf, provides a lot of information on his Facebook page. Pray for leaders, our country, and each other. Please consider joining our Lenten study! It is the perfect time to meet with other believers!

As always, Jerry, Eddie, and me are blessed by you!

Pastor Kathy

Blooming Grove UMC 2025 Officers, Teams, and Committees

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email
Church Council (*Voting Member)			
Chair	* Brad Saufferer	507-363-6579	b-saufferer@msn.com
Vice Chair	* Michael Kanne	507-475-0102	mdkanne45@gmail.com
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Class of 2027	Deb Miller (Chair)	507-213-8011	dkaymiller21@yahoo.com
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	Tracie Spinler	507-461-2194	tspinler@outlook.com

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* This is representative of the ongoing work of nominations. The Worship, Education, Communications, Tech, and Mission Teams are on a voluntary basis, and all are welcome to participate.

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.

- Prayers for Luke and Bobbi Mathern's son and daughter-in-law who are expecting their first baby and the baby will need heart surgery once born.
- All those battling the intestinal flu and upper respiratory conditions.
- Denise, daughter of Carol Karsten, who is recovering from surgery to repair a broken hip.
- Kelli Prchal's father, Kevin, as he journeys through health concerns.
- Marlene, friend of Dave and Sheryl Brisel, in her work with doctors to resolve medical issues.
- Dave and Sheryl Brisel's friend, Russ, from Colorado, who has entered hospice care.
- The family and friends of Melanie, a friend of the Mullenbach family, as they mourn her passing after her battle with cancer.
- Will Mullenbach's teacher, who has entered hospice care.
- Margaret, a family friend of Brad and Tracie Spinler, who is facing multiple medical concerns.
- Chuck, as he continues with doctor appointments.
- James, infant son of family friends of Linda Kosel, who is hospitalized due to his premature birth.
- For multiple persons in our BGUMC community, and their families, as they journey through many weeks and months of ongoing 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.



Celebration of Baptism

We celebrate the baptism of Louise Gene Christenson on Saturday, February 22nd! Louise is the daughter of Quinn and Tess Christenson and baby sister of Maryl.



Louise's grandparents are Karrie and Cris VanZuilen



Congratulations



Prayers of welcome and big congratulations to Paige, Alex, Suede, Colt and Brooks as they welcomed home Karrie and Chris VanZuilen's new granddaughter Vayda Elizabeth, born 2-5-25.



Your help is needed!

The Fish Fry is March 14th and we need everyone's help to make it happen. Bakers needed to make desserts (cookies and bars packaged in baggies), greeters, servers, cleaners, etc.

Contact Brad Spinler (507-461-2354) to see where you are needed.



A big thank you for the prayer shawl from the congregation please. So appreciative!

Denise Combs

Men's Breakfast

On Sunday, February 9th, the men and boys of BGUMC hosted their Annual Winter Breakfast in our sunlit-filled south addition, serving delicious pancakes, French toast, sausage, milk juice, coffee and baked goods made by women in the congregation. Approximately 30 people gathered for food and fellowship. A freewill offering was taken, raising \$470.00 for the Food Shelf. Thank you to everyone who donated the food, prepared and served the meal, handled set-up and clean-up, and served as hosts!





Thank you for Your Support of Emma Norton Services

Thank you for all the items that were generously donated during January and February to assist people in need, including articles of clothing, greeting cards and notepads, and cleaning supplies! *Watch for news in the days ahead of a date/time of a BGUMC field trip to deliver these items to Emma Norton Services' new location – Restoring Waters – in St. Paul.*

Lent/Easter Mission Opportunity: Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene and California Wildfires

Hurricanes and wildfires: we often watch in horror and disbelief, searching for ways that we can provide financial assistance that guarantee that our gifts will reach the people in need. We have found a way!

In March and April, we invite you to help raise funds that we will forward to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This disaster relief organization currently has “boots on the ground” in communities impacted by Hurricane Helene in the southeastern portion of the US and communities impacted by the wildfires in California. 100% of every dollar sent to UMCOR goes directly to relief efforts for those in need. Nothing is withheld for administrative fees.

*We will divide all donations received @ 50/50
between Hurricane Relief and Wildfire Relief.*

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

*In addition, add your loose change to the “Shaker
Can” at the back of the sanctuary. All “Shaker
Can” collections will go to this mission project as
well!*

*Watch as our Hymn of Promise Easter Garden
Mural in the south addition bursts forth with signs
of spring and hope – one new flower or sprig of
grass, butterfly or bird, little creature or Easter egg,
for each \$10 raised!*

**“It matters that we become the
Hands and feet for God. When
People are suffering the most from
Loss, we ask no questions. But in
God’s name, try to provide a little
Hope and relief from their pain.”**

How does UMCOR provide help? They work with local United Methodist Conferences impacted by Hurricane Helene and the California wildfires in the following ways:

- Help fund and provide immediate evacuee support through distribution of food, water, essential supplies, and hygiene and cleaning kits.
- When it is safe to do so, UMCOR emergency response teams assist with removal of debris and cleanup.
- Provide grants for immediate response needs, as well as for long-term recovery needs.
- If requested, partner with the local United Methodist Conferences for several years in the planning, coordinating, and work needed for long-term recovery.

(umcmmission.org)



The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), a unit of Global Ministries, is a humanitarian organization that helps alleviate human suffering, one of the two main goals of Global Ministries. Originally founded in 1940 in response to displaced and vulnerable populations in the wake of World War II, UMCOR assists the most vulnerable people affected by crisis or chronic need without regard to their race, religion or status. UMCOR’s work is carried out by providing relief and assistance in response to natural and human-made disasters and supporting programs in the areas of migration, health, food security and environmental sustainability.

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

March 2025

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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Check us out on Facebook!

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and General Pastoral Questions:**

Pastor Kathy King
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Join Us

If you are interested in
becoming a member of
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see Pastor Kathy.



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If you would rather read your
copy of the Visitor online, (and
in color) check us out at
www.bloominggroveumc.org

To unsubscribe or to be added
to our email distribution list,
contact cherysouth@gmail.com

Friday, March 14th

4:30—7:00 pm
(Or until Fish is gone)

Come enjoy good food and great
fellowship.

Freewill offering with all proceeds
going to the BGUMC
“Accessibility for all”
Building Project



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