



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE VISITOR

Volume 87, Issue 3

THE TWO STEEPLED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

March 2023

## Lent



### Lent & Holy Week Services

#### Palm Sunday Worship

April 2nd at each church in the Parish  
Theme: "Why is Jesus Special?"

#### Prairie Lakes Parish Maundy Thursday

April 6th at 7:15 P.M. at Janesville UMC  
Theme: "Are You Scared of the Future?"  
Pop-up choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

#### Prairie Lakes Parish Good Friday

April 7th at 7:15 p.m. at Blooming Grove UMC  
Theme: "Why Did Jesus Have to Die?"  
Pop-up choir rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

#### April 9th—Easter Sunday Services

Theme: "Why Be a Christian?"  
BG UMC: 7:30 a.m. with breakfast to follow  
WV EUMC: 9:00 a.m.  
JV UMC: 10:30 a.m.

### 2023 Theme for Lent and Easter "Questions to God"

GOD  
I'VE GOT A  
QUESTION

(Created by United Methodists of Greater New Jersey)

Cindy Saufferer will be leading a Lenten study group every Wednesday during Lent from 7:15 to 8:00 pm. Each is a "stand-alone" topic so you can join for one or all of the sessions. Locations will switch between the three churches. Below is a list of the locations and the theme for each session.

- 3/1/23 Blooming Grove UMC  
Who is God?
- 3/8/23 Janesville UMC  
Is the Bible Reliable?
- 3/15/23 Waterville EUMC  
Why Should I Go to Church?
- 3/22/23 Blooming Grove UMC  
Why do Bad Things Happen to Good People
- 3/29/23 Janesville UMC  
How & Why Do I Forgive?

### Men's Breakfast Fundraiser Sunday, March 26th 9:30-10:30 am

Sponsored and served by the men of the  
Blooming Grove UMC.

Take-out is also available.

#### Free-Will Offering

Proceeds from the breakfast will go to the local food shelves. March is matching funds month so every donation is matched.

Cash is preferred but you can also bring non-perishable food items.



For more information or to offer help,  
call Brad 507.461.2354



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### Join Us

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

# March 2023

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

**Janesville**  
Afternoon Worship.....4:00 pm

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

			1 6-7 pm WV Acts 29  7:15—8 pm Lenten Study Group at BG	2 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	3 5-7 pm Lenten Fish Fry at BG  Pastor's Day Off	4
5	6	7	8 6-7 pm WV Acts 29  7:15—8 pm Lenten Study Group at JV	9 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	10   Pastor's Day Off	11
12 	13	14	15 6-7 pm WV Acts 29  7:15—8 pm Lenten Study Group at WV	16 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	17   Pastor's Day Off	18
19 Confirmation	20   Spring begins	21	22 6-7 pm WV Acts 29  7:15—8 pm Lenten Study Group at BG	23 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	24   Pastor's Day Off	25
26 9:30-10:30 am Men's break- fast at BG	27	28	29 7:15—8 pm Lenten Study Group at JV	30 7 pm WV holds Bible Study at Rice County Jail	31   Pastor's Day Off	



## It Depends!



*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.* Hebrews 10:23-25 NIV

As we move into March, it is good to see the daylight lengthening—especially after these recent days of snowfall! The sunlight steaming in our living room west-facing windows reminds me of the changes that happen when winter is trying to hold on but spring is knocking on the door. Winter won over our Ash Wednesday service. It was a snowy night and just not a good night to be driving. It was disappointing not to gather but we've become accustomed to schedule changes—another Covid lesson.

As I consider what to share in this month that those Irish among us celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we remember that March is a month fully encompassed in Lent. Our Lenten Study series begins March 1<sup>st</sup> at Blooming Grove UMC. We'll meet from 7:15 to 8:00 each Wednesday evening, led by our Deaconess and Justice in Love Coordinator, Cindy Saufferer. I am looking forward to our gathering and hope you are too.

Our passage from Hebrews (noted above) reminds us that in our meeting together, we have the opportunity to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Our Blooming Grove community will be working together to provide their annual Lenten Fish Fry on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with serving from 5 to 7 p.m. Each time I see one of our church communities working together, my heart is warmed by the fellowship as the workers and those who are served enjoy one another's presence. There is hope in the community working together. There is hope in those who's support is so important to the success of the event. But, the greatest hope is found in the presence of the Holy Spirit flowing through those gathered.

We depend on one another when we do the work of the church. Can we take the time to encourage each other as individual church communities and as the community found in our larger parish? God brought us together and has blessed us with new friendships. Friends, let us encourage one another's Lenten faith journeys, our reflection of how we can best grow in our faith, and—most importantly—let us depend on one another in this community that professes Jesus as Lord and Savior!

Let it be so!

*In His Love,*

*Pastor Kathy*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

4 Jerry Ellingson  
5 Ken Harren  
6 Connie Goslar  
6 Trudi Remund Fisher  
6 Val Mullenbach  
11 Elizabeth Knutson  
19 Sebastian Fyvie  
20 Lauri Remund  
21 Mary Wilkowske  
22 Hjordi Churchill  
22 Cody Kosel  
22 Brian Kosel  
24 Abigail Buchholz  
24 Dan Carty  
24 Brianna Yule  
26 Ila Prchal  
26 Ray Blake  
27 Judy Mahler  
27 Karrie VanZuilen  
28 Luke VanZuilen  
31 Andrea Stockdale



**Happy Anniversary to**  
Keith & Lauri Remund  
on March 18th.



## Parament Colors

The Parament Color for March is Purple.



## Concordia College

### Choir Concert

The Concordia College (Moorhead) Choir will be performing on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 P.M. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna. Tickets are available at the door.

## For Grace to Labor

The things, good Lord, that we pray for,  
give us grace to labor for. Amen

Thomas More, England, 16th century

## Treasurer's Report

January 26—February 25, 2023



**General Budget Income** **\$ 3,918.24**

### Other Income

Visitor 10.00  
Snow Tubing 110.00

**Total Income** **\$4,038.24**

### Expenses

Pastor's Salary 1,959.32  
Telephone 52.82  
Excel Energy 125.51  
Cleaning 168.75  
Greenwald's Greenhouse 286.60  
Kamisamba Farm 432.00

**Total Paid Out** **\$ 3,192.50**

(Net Income: + \$845.74)

## Building Addition

### Income

Building Fund Income \$ 735.00

**Total Income** **\$ 735.00**

### Expenses

Loan Payment \$ 3,505.13

**Total Paid Out** **\$ 3,505.13**

(Net Income: — \$2,770.13)

Restoration Fund Balance \$81,346.68

Building Addition Loan \$289,468.69

**Calling All Parents,  
Grandparents, Aunts  
and Uncles**



I need a little help here, please! Very soon graduation time will be upon us. If you have a family member who is graduating from High School, Junior College or College, a Trade School or any upper-level educational/vocational training, please contact Patti Ellingson with this information. Even if they're in another town – or another state – they're part of our church family and we want to celebrate their hard earned accomplishment. That's something worth celebrating. You can reach Patti by text at **peppermint\_e@hotmail.com** or by phone at (507) 339-2477.

If possible, include a photo of the grad please. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



## Be the Light



How many years ago? “72!!”  
What happened?  
“It was the winter of the big snow!!”

Those responses, exuberantly repeated prefacing each of the five vignettes re-enacted by our youngsters, youth, and young adults, got us all engaged. It was our Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, worship service, but it was a retelling of the true accounts of members of our very own church family of yesteryear – 72 years ago. In re-enacting, the drifts piled up in the aisles (cotton batting). The tractors (John Deere and Oliver pedal tractors) pushed their way through the falling flakes (cotton balls and mini-metallic pom-poms). The wood gathered to create the manger we use to this very day was loaded into the horse-pulled cart (plastic sled behind 2 kid-driven stick horses) – and so it went. Simple and symbolic child-appropriate props and scenery set the stage. Direct-line-descendants (in many cases) were utilized as narrators for each of the accounts from that winter. Some very fitting liturgy, music, responsive readings (BGUMC-created poetry), familiar song-tune parodies (BGUMC created) were incorporated, and the oft-recurring last paragraph of the responsive reading: **“Share God’s love with one and all – No task too big, no task too small. Bring God’s Kingdom**

**here on earth, share your heart for all it’s worth! See Christ’s light in all you meet. Be Christ’s light with human feet!”** truly emphasized and captured the essence of what happened that memorable winter. And yet also, it reminds us that today, 2023, each one of us can still be that light.

Every child had 3 or 4 parts and they meshed the whole thing together with delightful acting and enjoyment. From

ages 1 ½ years old through adults 20’s, 30’s (and older!!) there was a “flurry” of activity in the aisles and the chancel. There was the loud “wind” of little voices saying “72” and “winter of the big snow.” There was the snug warmth of working together and looking out for each other (“careful with the shovels”, “Kinsley wants to drive the ‘tractor’”, “don’t trip on the ‘logs’”, “I’ll take Kaylee with me”).

BGUMC’s heritage is valued; that unforgettable year of buried roads isolating people also, in fact, unified them – brought them together with a common purpose of providing aid when and where it was needed. In rehearsals, planning, and presenting, we witnessed carrying forth that heritage as our youngsters looked out for each other. And really, isn’t that what we all strive to do? Don’t we find joy and fulfillment in reaching out to be there for someone? We all get stuck in ‘snowdrifts’ or trip on a ‘log’ or perhaps want to ‘hunker down’ at home sometimes; we’re human, we have faults and foibles. But the ‘snowdrifts’, ‘logs’, and ‘safe hunker down’ situations also allow us to re-evaluate the next step. One little step, then the next. **No task too big, no task too small.** In this time when we hear over and over again on the news of shootings, stabbings, animosity, aggression and hate, there still are (though less-

broadcast) many episodes of love and caring; let’s not forget to **see Christ’s light in all you meet.**

And above all, with one little step, then the next, let’s endeavor to **be Christ’s light with human feet!** That’s what God has charged us to do. Thanks, kids, for impressing on us the importance of each action that we, and you, take.

(Patti Ellingson)



Thank you to the 31 children/youth/young adults/parents/teachers who worked together to make this presentation possible. Special thanks go to Kristin Krell, for the great photos that she took. They will be posted on Facebook and on our BGUMC website in the near future.





## We Had Snow!!! & We Had Sun! & WE HAD FUN!

Upwards of three dozen snow-tubers and chaperone/

watchers were grateful that there **WAS** snow for our tubing event. Yay!! But the sun was also out, with mid 20's temps, so weatherwise it was perfect. All three of our churches were represented; additional friends or extended family members came too. The fun was preceded with safety and rules instructions by the Omega staff, brief prayer by our staff, and then they were off.

Exclamations of "WHOOAaaaaa-----!!" and "OOOHH BOooooyyyyy-----" and "Eeeeeaaaahh-----!" and "Looook-outttt!-----" and "Here I GGGOoooooooo-----" and various other sounds of excitement and fun could be heard as tubers descended down the long hill. The route back up? Sit on your backside on your tube and grab hold tightly to the rope! Some were naturals with the tow rope uphill; for several others there was a bit of a learning curve before mastery of the uphill ride. Some barely reached the end of the upwards tow-glide before they rapidly shoved off again for another race down along the well-worn snow route.



There was an assortment of downhill methods. Some chose belly down head-first; some bottom down feet-first, some in chains (up to 3 tubes together was allowed), some in "pig piles" (up to 3 people per tube was allowed), and some changed it up as they slid down the hill (not always necessarily *purposefully* changing it up!!)

It's a chain of 3 –

whoops now it's 2 and 1 – wait, now it's 3 singles! Butt down – no! side-slide – no, now it's a belly down – wait – now it's concentric downhill circles – whoops, now it's rolling off! Nope, nope! Back on again, butt-down feet-first. The whooping and hollers and laughter were non-stop all afternoon.

To keep the tubing path in good condition, and the uphill towing path in good condition (well, and to prevent getting clobbered by a moving projectile) all tromping was to happen way off to the side. So, as photos were clicked, the photographer had to tromp and

trudge up and down the outer edges of the slideway trying not to look to "drunk-like clumsy" in the deep, uneven snow (a challenge all in itself!) all while trying not to fall and have the phone-camera get lost in the snow!



and..... wait for it.... melt-in-your-mouth delicious homemade caramel rolls; 4 dozen! Mmmmm.

Bathrooms and an enormous array of eats (provided by the kids' parents/grandparents) was all another drunken-tromp-and-trudge several yards away to a cabin. Bottles of water, cups of hot chocolate, several kinds of cookies including home-made ones, a huge box of variety-pack chips, even yummy ham sandwiches



All in all, it was a memorably fun, successful day; and no mishaps requiring first aid. Several of the youth (and adults, too) were heard saying, "I can't wait 'til we do this again!" So, I guess it goes on next year's calendar.

*\*\*\*The caramel roll recipe will be posted on the back bulletin board at church.*

*(Patti Ellingson)*





# Prayer Requests

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.*

- Jake Goldsmith's mom, Char, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- Char Frankensberry's sister-in-law Sue, who is improving after her hospitalization in February.
- Caitlyn, the daughter of Carolyn Kanne's good friends Tom & Kathryn – as Caitlyn mourns the death of her significant other.
- Patti Ellingson's 3-year old grandson, Oliver, for whom a significant improvement in growth is taking place with specialized medical care.
- The thousands of people suffering from the devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.
- The family of a former son-in-law of Carol Karsten, who lost their niece, Ari Ptacek, age 26, in a snowmobile accident in the Upper Peninsula.
- Jenny Jenkins' dad, Jerry, as he recovers from emergency surgery to install a pacemaker.
- Faye Kanne's daughter-in-law, Jenny, diagnosed with a rare autoimmune disease that can result in narrowing of the air tubes. Pray for Jenny's doctors as they brainstorm best approaches, including a surgical procedure that will take place in early March.
- Patti Ellingson's friend, Brian, who has suffered significant losses in recent months.
- Bill, of Waterville EUMC, who fell on the ice and broke his foot, and is now recovering from surgery to repair the break.
- Sherry - a member of our parish PPRC Team, from Janesville UMC - who is recovering from a minor stroke.
- Marlis Mahler's adult niece, Tamara, in Fort Collins, CO, who recently moved into a foster home with live-in staff and two other housemates (also with disabilities). This is a big change for Tamara (and her cat, Raven, who moved with her) as she had been living in her own apartment. Tamara's family is optimistic this will be a positive change for Tamara. Keep Tamara's mom and her sister in your prayers as well, since this change impacts them too.
- All in our faith community who privately hold heavy concerns in their hearts and lives. Help us

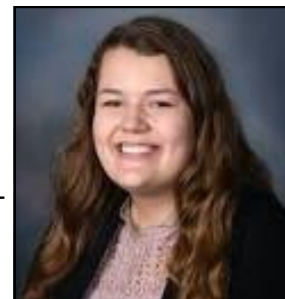
## New Baby

Blessings to Tess and Quinn Robert Christenson on the birth of their daughter, Maryl Rose Christenson, on 2/21/2023. Proud grandparents are Cris and Karrie VanZuilen.



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Mikayla Spinler for successfully defending her masters in swine nutrition at Kansas State University (KSU) in February! Mikayla now embarks on the path of earning her PhD – also at KSU. As part of her master's program, in July 2022, Mikayla and her fellow research team members were published in the National Hog Farmer regarding their study, conducted at the KSU Swine Teaching and Research Center, of the impact of flavor in sow lactation diets. They identified that increased palatability of the diet can increase feed intake during lactation, which is important for improving litter growth performance and minimizing sow weight loss.



## Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) Dinner



Due to blizzard conditions setting in on the original date of Fat Tuesday (the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent), BGUMC hosted a rescheduled Mardi Gras Lunch – lovingly nicknamed “Skinny Sunday” - at Half Pint Brewing Company on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. 28 people gathered for fellowship around delicious Mardi Gras cuisine of beans/rice/sausage and King Cake. Homemade Chicken Wild Rice soup was offered as an alternative, and a tasty salad and other delicious desserts were served as well. We laughed together, participated in a “Mardi Gras Quiz Bowl”, and rejoiced that the blizzard was done and the sun was shining! Thanks to Half Pint Brewing Company for their welcoming hospitality and to Brad/Cindy Saufferer, Brad/Tracie Spinler, and Carolyn Kanne for providing the main portions of the Mardi Gras meal.

## Lent & Easter Offering to Restoring Waters

Cindy Saufferer



For the past 63 years, the Emma Norton Residence in downtown St. Paul has housed hundreds of residents that are either affected by mental illness, struggle with chemical health issues, or have dual diagnoses or disabilities. These women commonly face intergenerational poverty and homelessness, experience the effects of systemic racism, deal with numerous barriers to stability and independence, and often, all of the above.

Over the past decade, it has been an honor to serve on the Emma Norton Services Board where I witnessed the profound impact Emma Norton has had on countless women's (and their families) lives. But my tenure has only shown me a small portion of the impact Emma Norton has made in our community at large and why I write to you now.

Blooming Grove UMC's Easter offering has a long-standing tradition of improving lives around the world. The impact of our offering has been both far-reaching and personal. From supporting a school in the Democratic Republic of Congo that teaches best agricultural practices to more local endeavors, such as filling food shelves in our local community, we continually search for where we can create lasting impacts in our global society. This year is no different.

The housing and services provided in Emma Norton's current facility has transformed countless lives, but their needs for a physical space have also changed as Emma Norton grows. Over the last half-century of operating in their current facility, there have been countless advancements in the neuroscience and architecture behind creating healing spaces. After five years of dreaming, planning, and countless hours of work, Emma Norton began implementing the fruit of these advancements to better serve their mission and our community. On January 17th, 2023, Emma Norton broke ground for a new residence in Highland Bridge, the benefactor of this year's offering, Restoring Waters.

The Restoring Waters facility will expand Emma Norton's ability to promote healing by creating a safe harbor for women on a healing journey. Designed to be open and welcoming, Restoring Waters will create spaces for community building, volunteer support, relaxation, exercise, healthcare, and more. Trauma-informed, the facility's architecture incorporates natural light, artwork, curved hallways, access to nature, and various flexible and calming areas that place a foundation for the healing community that is Emma Norton.

The current Residence consists of many rooms that house two people, with residents sharing each floor's community bathroom and dining in the building's cafeteria. There will be a profound difference at Restoring Waters through the addition of a host of amenities. Each of the 56 alcove apartments for single occupants and four one-bedroom apartments for small families, will be complete with its own bathroom and kitchen. These simple but impactful improvements will increase the resident's quality of life by providing privacy for each resident while creating a space that promotes safety, empowerment, growth, and, above all, healing.

Your offering will enable Emma Norton to act boldly for justice and equity in our greater community. On behalf of the lives your offering will change, thank you.







**Blooming Grove Church  
Council Meeting  
January 30, 2023  
Carolyn Kanne,  
Board Secretary**

In attendance: Brad Spiner, Brad & Cindy Saufferer, Brian & Carolyn Kanne, Pastor Kathy & Jerry King, Chery Southworth, Patti Ellingson, Judy Mahler

**Opening Prayer**

**Review of September 2022 meeting minutes:**  
approved by consensus

**Financial Report:**

**Treasurer's Report:** approved by consensus, still need to write checks for Ruth's House and Kamisamba Farm

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Approved by consensus; figures are on track

**Trustees Report:**

Brad Saufferer and Luke fixed the phone in the lift

**Old Business:**

**Audit:** Brad reported that Arlene did the audit.

**Team Reports:**

**2022 Missions:** Judy handed out a report that was prepared for the conference last December. Various Mission opportunities this past year included Prayer Shawls, Adopt A Family, Book Study, Pizza Farm. See handout for more details.

**Education & Events:**

- Snow tubing on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>
- Sunday School/Youth/Young Adult Epiphany Program on February 12<sup>th</sup> – The Winter of the Big Snow – how to be in community in the world

**PPRC:**

- Time of Transition in MN UMC Conference. There are 300-400 UM churches in MN. Not many disaffiliated this year. Expect more next year.
- Changes in Conference Staffing:
  - ◊ New Director of Racial Justice and Equity (profiled in the Visitor)
  - ◊ New Bishop – from rural Iowa, very down to Earth
  - ◊ Changes in District Superintendents – our new one will be Woojae Im – both Cindy and Karen Olson think this will be a good choice
  - ◊ Transition Assistance Requires of Local

Churches – with change in DS, what do we want? We are asked to update our church profile. This is being worked on.

- ◊ Meet the bishop opportunities – several opportunities to meet Bishop Lanette
- ◊ 2023 Leadership Rotation for Prairie Lakes PPRC – co chairs this year

**Membership Recording Updates:** Need to make sure all baptisms and weddings are recorded – Carolyn will work on this. Also, we will put a note in the Visitor and the bulletin to contact Pastor Kathy if some of our regular attendees want to join “officially.”

**Communication:**

**Worship:** Meeting tomorrow night via Zoom to set schedule for Lent/Easter. Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22

**UMF:** Needs to meet. Cindy will figure out how to make this a parish-wide group.

**Tech Team:**

**Pastor's Report:**

**Reflections/Comments:** Anyone wishing to discuss the split within the world-wide General Conference of the United Methodist Church is welcome to contact Pastor Kathy

**Confirmation update:** This is rolling along. The most recent gathering was on Faith and Relationships. There are usually 5 or 6 parents in attendance as well.

**2023 Involvement in MN UMC Conference:** Course of study is completed; will receive a scapula at Conference this spring.

**Shmita Program:** This has begun with a long Zoom call. A leadership review is coming up.  
**Ash Wednesday, Lent, Easter**

**Upcoming Events:**

**Fat Tuesday Dinner:** Brad and Cindy are planning a Fat Tuesday dinner on Feb. 21, either at Half Pint or the church basement. They plan red beans and rice, chicken wild rice soup, and Carolyn and Michael will work on king cake.

**Fish Fry:** Brad Spiner is planning a fish fry. The target date is March 3, unless we can't get the fish by then.

**Men's Breakfast:** This will happen sometime in March. TBA.

**Missions:** Judy asked where we would be directing the Lent/Easter offering. Cindy suggested the Emma Norton Capital Campaign for their new building. Approved by consensus.

**Next Meeting Date:** April 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm

**Closing Prayer**

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

**March 2023**

**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](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:

[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)

**Visitor Staff:**

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

26651 Elmore Avenue

Morristown, MN 55052

(507) 339-3534

[CherySouth@gmail.com](mailto:CherySouth@gmail.com)

Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

Brad Saufferer, Writer

Patti Ellingson, Writer

Cindy Saufferer, Writer

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**Lenten Friday  
Walleye Fish Fry**

**Friday, March 3rd**

**5:00—7:00 pm**

**At Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

Come enjoy good food, great fellowship, and a break from winter's cold and snow!

Take-out is also available!

**Contact Brad Spinler at  
507-461-2354 if you  
have any questions or  
to offer your help.**

Free-will offering with all  
proceeds going to the  
BGUMC Accessible Entry

