BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



THE VISITOR

Volume 90, Issue 6

THE TWO STEEPLED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

June 2025



Sunday, June 1st Morning Worship Time Changes to 8:15 A.M. (June through November)

On Sunday, June 1st, we begin our Prairie Lakes Parish Summer/Fall Worship Schedule (possible due to the more predictable and reliable driving conditions for Pastor Kathy during these months of the year)

- ♦ 8:15 AM Blooming Grove UMC
- ♦ 9:30 AM Waterville EUMC
- ♦ 10:45 AM Janesville UMC

Blooming Grove UMC Members to attend



Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference – June 2025

The 2025 Minnesota Annual Conference —a gathering of United Methodist clergy and laity from across the state – takes place June 11-13 at the River's Edge Convention Center in St. Cloud. The theme for this year's session is "Created for Love". Blooming Grove UMC members in attendance this year:

- Hjordi Churchill: BGUMC Lay Delegate
- Cindy Saufferer: United Methodist Deaconess
- Deb Miller: Equalization Member. (In the Minnesota Annual Conference, "Equalization Members" are those who attend the conference but are not clergy or lay members. The purpose of an equalization member is to ensure an equal number of lay and clergy voices in the annual conference voting. These members, elected by their respective districts, represent a broader range of lay voices and do not represent a specific church or clergy voice. They are responsible for voting on matters before the conference, ensuring a balanced representation of perspectives.)

Our BGUMC folks will be joined by three others from our Prairie Lakes Parish: Pastor Kathy King, Jerry King (also an Equalization Member), and Karen Olson (Waterville Evangelical UMC Lay Delegate).

Pastor Kathy's Vacation

Pastor Kathy will be on vacation from May 26th through June 9th. Elden Ecklund will be the on-call pastor during this time. He may be reached at 507-339-1036.

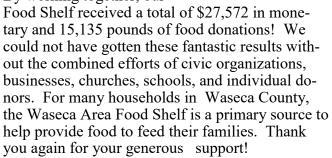
Thank you to Cindy Saufferer and Deb Miller for creating and leading our Sunday morning worship services on June 1st and June 8th – while Pastor Kathy is on vacation.

June Communion Sunday

Our monthly Celebration of Holy Communion in June will take place on Sunday, June 15th at 8:15 A.M. Worship

Thank You From Waseca Area Neighborhood Food Shelf

The 2025 March FoodShare campaign is in the books. By working together, our



(Blooming Grove UMC supports the Waseca Area Neighborhood Food Shelf throughout the year through several different fund-raising events. All proceeds from our Annual Winter Men's Breakfast go specifically toward the March FoodShare campaign.)

June 2025

Blooming Grove Janesville Morning Worship10:45 am				Waterville Evangelical Morning Worship9:30 am		
1	2	3	1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ	9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	Bullhead Days i	7 n Waterville
		Pastor Kathy or	n vacation May 20	6th thru June 9th.		
Bullhead Days in Waterville Pastor Kathy or	9	10 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	11 1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ	12 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	13	HAPPY FLAG DAY
26th thru			Annua	l Conference in S	St. Cloud	
15	16	17	11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Best Thai Cuisine, 115 N Main Street, Janesville 1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ	9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	6:30 pm Bible Conversations at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Pastor's Day Off	21
22	23	24	25 1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ	26 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	Pastor's Day Off	10 am to noon Free Diaper Giveaway at WV
9:30 am Pop- up Choir Rehearsal at JV 10:15 am Joint Worship Service at JV	30				Parame June 1 June 8 June 1 June 2 June 2	5 White 2 Green

JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.

5	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
6-8	Fri-Su	ın	Waterville Bullhead Days
11-1	13 Wed	l-Fri	Annual Conference in St. Cloud
19	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
18	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Best Thai Cuisine
			115 N Main, Janesville
20	Fri	6:30 pm	Bible Conversations at Pizza Farm
29	Sun	9:30 am	Pop-up Choir Practice at JV
29	Sun	10:15 am	Joint Worship at JV



3 Michael Kanne	•
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- Shane Yule
- 6 Beth Christesen
- Christ Karsten
- Penelope Morgan
- Dave Brisel



- 15 Brian Martin
- 17 Brandon Church
- 20 Kathy King 21 Gil Christesen
- 22 Raelyn Janke
- 23
- Dylan Carty
- Bobbi Mathern 28
- 29 Bailey Fyvie
- 29 Tyler Morgan
- Kelli Prchal 30



- Brian & Carolyn Kanne
- 10 Alex & Paige Hohertz
- 11 Ron & Carolyn Engebretson
- 14 Robert & Sharon Nelson
- 17 David & Sheryl Brisel
- 23 Jerry & Kathy King

Waterville Bullhead Days June 6-8

Waterville EUMC invites everyone to stop by their Hamburger Stand during Bullhead Days and enjoy a hamburger or hot dog.



Help Needed

While we at BGUM appreciate and respect most of nature's creatures, we don't like certain birds. These "special" birds keep getting in the chimney and then finding their way into the furnac-



es. The trustees are looking for someone to install bird proof covers on the chimney. If you're interested or have thoughts, please contact Brad Spinler @ 507-461-2354 or bspinler@outlook.com

Treasurer's Report

May 26, 2025



General Budget Income	\$ 3,367.00	
Cemetery	100.00	
Total Income	3,467.00	

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	2,268.75
Excel Energy	88.29
Century Link	57.80

Total Paid Out \$ 2,414.84 (Net Income: \$1,052.16)

Building Addition

	 · •
Income	
Restoration	\$ 350.00
Total Income	\$ 350.00
Expenses Loan Payment	\$ 5,505.13
Total Paid Out	\$ 5,505.13
(Net Income:	 \$5,155.13)

Mission Giving

UMCOR \$1,036.50



Looking Ahead!

Mark your Calendars!

4th Annual Blooming Grove UMC **Summer Walleye Fish Fry**

- Sunday, July $20^{th} 4:30 7:30$ P.M. at Half Pint Brewing Co.
- Deep fried walleye, French fries, coleslaw, root beer floats, and homemade desserts.
- Please contact Brad Saufferer at 507-363-6579 to volunteer to help cook, serve, bake desserts, and/ or help with set up and tear down!



Blooming Grove UMC Day Camp

Saturday, August 2nd – More Details to follow.





Be Bold



"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 23: 34-35 NIV

Preparations are underway for your representatives to attend this year's Annual Conference. Minnesota United Methodists will be back in St. Cloud for this year's gathering. I am happy with our return to St. Cloud. Last year's drive through rush hour traffic from our hotel to the Hennepin Avenue UMC was something I do not want to do again. The theme of this year's conference is "Created to Love Boldly."

Your Worship Team met recently to plan for our 2025 joint worship services. The joint services are some of my favorite (next to Christmas and Easter of course) worship experiences of the year. It is good to see our parish church members come together to praise God as the larger community. A high point of the joint services are our pop-up choirs that provide heartwarming music. Seeing and hearing the voices harmonizing brings the Holy Spirit's fire in our midst. We begin at Janesville UMC on June 29th where our focus will be "Love Boldly." Our 2025 Minnesota Annual Conference and our joint worship themes support our denomination's new vision statement, "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections."

As our denomination lives into our call to do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God, we look to the Gospel of John and Christ's call to follow a new command: "love one another. As I have loved you, so must you love one another." Friends, we live at a time when it isn't always easy to distinguish a professed disciple of Jesus Christ. We must each focus our living to be that example to others that following Jesus Christ makes a difference in this world. May we have the courage to love boldly.

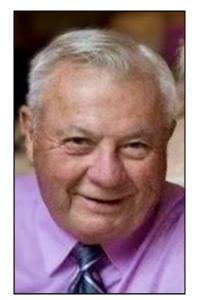
I will be on vacation May 26th through June 9th. Elden Eckland will be the on-call pastor. (507-339-1036). I am grateful for his help.

Enjoy these days of late Spring and early Summer. Thank you for being the wonderful community I am blessed to serve.

In His Love,

In Sympathy

On Saturday, May 17th, the extended family of Duane and Patricia Parrish gathered at Blooming Grove UMC for a private service of remembrance – and burial – of their beloved "Pat and Dewey". This celebration of life was led by MN United Methodist Pastor Roger Parrish-Siggelkow, married to Marnie Parish (niece of Duane). Duane is the son of Charles and Norma Parrish, who were "several-generations-ago" beloved members of BGUMC. Duane grew up on the Parrish family farm near our church. He was part of all our church family's happenings and music at that time, in the era of – and alongside - Judy Mahler's parents. See excerpts from Duane and Pat's life-stories, as taken from their obituaries, below.



Charles Duane "Dewey" Parrish, age 93, passed away on November 27, 2024. Dewey was born on his family farm in Blooming Grove Township on December 2, 1930, the son of Charles Benjamin Parrish and Norma Augusta (Studer) Parrish. He graduated from Waseca High School in June 1948, and worked on the farm for a year after graduation. Dewey then attended Gustavus Adolphus College for a year and a half before enlisting in the Army. During the Korean War, Dewey spent time overseas stationed in the Philippines.

Patricia Mabel (Madsen) Parrish passed away on January 27, 2025. She was born on June 18, 1931, to Helen Laila (Cheese) Madsen and Hans Lauritzen Madsen in Little Falls, Minnesota. She grew up on the family farm in Swanville, Minnesota, (near Upsala) with her two brothers and a sister. Pa-

tricia graduated from Upsala High School in June of 1949 in a class of 32 students, and enjoyed being the drum majorette. She then attended a two-year teacher college in Mankato, MN and began her career teaching 2nd grade in International Falls, MN in 1951.



Patricia and Dewey's Life Story Together

While teaching, Pat began writing letters and corresponding with "Dewey" Parrish while he was in basic training for the Army. This relationship was facilitated by their older sisters who were in nursing school together. Pat married her "pen pal" in June 1952. They started their life together in St. Peter, MN, where Dewey finished college at Gustavus Adolphus and they welcomed the first of their six children, Cynthia.

Upon Dewey's graduation from college, Dewey and Pat moved to Park Rapids, MN. There Dewey taught Physical Education and Science at the local high school, founded the wrestling program (coaching his team at the Minnesota State Championship) and they welcomed five more children: Charles, Craig, Cheryl, Cary, and Caron. The Parrish family of eight enjoyed camping together, playing cards, sharing music around the piano, attending church activities and being involved in sports, school band, orchestra, and musicals.

In 1963, the family moved to Caledonia, MN, where Dewey started working for Charles E. Merrill Publishing Company selling textbooks to schools. In 1965, the family moved once more to Beaver Dam, WI, where Dewey and Pat resided since.

After raising their six children, Patricia returned to college in 1975, attending UW Oshkosh to obtain her teaching degree in Special Education. She taught at Lincoln Elementary School in Beaver Dam for 16 years before retiring in 1993. Pat had a passion for children and found joy in her students' successes.

(Dewey and Pat Parrish—Continued)

Dewey was a gifted singer, loved music, and instilled his passion for music to each of his six children. Pat always kept herself busy with knitting, sewing, reading and canning fresh garden produce. After retiring, she took up drawing and acrylic painting and filled her home with a gallery of her creations!

Pat and Dewey were long-time members of Trinity United Methodist Church in Beaver Dam. They were involved in the church choir, family activities and church family camping. Together, they also enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, traveling the world, and spending countless hours with their children and grandchildren. They also spent their time each winter as snowbirds in Destin, Florida where they developed many lasting friendships.

Dewey and Pat are survived by their six children, 14 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren. Dewey is also survived by his brothers Bruce and Lowell and sister, Annette. He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Norma, brother Stanley and sister Donna. Pat was preceded in death by her parents, Hans and Helen Madsen, her brothers, Howard Madsen and Richard Madsen and a sister Marge Harlow.



Ooops! Gotta Include This Grad! (By Patti Ellingson)

With apologies for the oversight, here's another graduate to recognize. Graduating from South Dakota State University, Mason Nagel (son of James and

Kristin Nagel) earned his degree in Food Science. By the time you read this, Mason will be settling into his new home in Pelican Rapids, MN, where he'll start his new job with Hormel/Jennie-O in Pelican Rapids. Congratulations Mason, and we send you forth with many well wishes.



Prairie Lakes Parish Joint Worship Services - Summer 2025 "Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, Lead Courageously"

This year, we continue our much-anticipated tradition of holding joint worship services among our three congregations on the last Sunday of each month. We hope that you can join us!

This year's theme is based on the newly adopted vision statement of The United Methodist Church: The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections.

(Note: There will be an additional pop-up choir rehearsal in July and August at a date/time/place TBA.)

Sunday, June 29th at Janesville UMC Theme: Love Boldly

9:30 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal 10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship Light Lunch to Follow

Sunday, July 27th at Waterville Evangelical UMC Theme: Serve Joyfully

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal 10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship Light Lunch to Follow

Sunday, August 31st at Blooming Grove UMC

Theme: Lead Courageously

9:15 A.M. – Pop-Up Choir Rehearsal 10:15 A.M. – Morning Worship Light Lunch to Follow

Also save the date of Sunday, October 5th World-Wide Communion Sunday Parish Worship Service At Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

10:30 A.M. - Morning Worship 11:30 A.M - Pizza Lunch on the Grounds





BGUMC Love Offering "Created for Love" Sundays, May 18th through June 8th

Each May/June, local Minnesota United Methodist Churches take a Love Offering for missions. The offering is then brought to the MN United Methodist Annual Conference Session by the delegates from each church.

Our MN UMC Love Offering this year will help us put love into action for our neighbors around the world. The funds from this year's offering will go to the initiatives listed below.

If you would like to contribute, please note "Love Offering" on your check or offering envelope and place your donation in the white "offering coffeepot" at the back of the sanctuary. Checks should be made out to Blooming Grove UMC. Thank you.

Student Scholarships at Africa University (30%)

Africa University, a United Methodist-related school in Zimbabwe, currently educates about 2,500 students from 24 African countries. Africa Uni-



versity is committed to increasing the number of students who enroll from all the countries of sub-Saharan Africa where The UMC is growing and in need of ethical and well-formed leaders. The best way to recruit promising students from across Africa is to have more scholarship funds available. With your support, students are equipped to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, reduce hunger, improve public health, instill hope, and build prosperous and peaceful communities.



Immigration Law and Justice Network (30%)

Immigration Law and Justice Network (ILJ), an organization established by The United Method-

ist Committee on Relief, supports 19 sites across the country, each providing immigrants with urgently

needed immigration legal services, advocacy, and education. ILJ Network envisions a nation where every immigrant has access to justice in an antiracist immigration system that honors the dignity of all people. Financial support from the Love Offering is critical at this moment, and every dollar will make a difference to immigrants seeking access to justice.



OC Ministries (20%)

OC Ministries, a Minnesota Conference Advance Special that's celebrating its 35th anniversary, supports schools, medical

clinics, churches, agriculture projects, vision clinics, curriculum writing, and student scholarships in developing countries, all to inclusively minister to the bodies, minds, and souls of children and their families. OC Ministries partners with United Methodists across the world, including the Richard Ormsby Secondary School in Baiwalla, Sierra Leone; the Egypt Project avocado farm that supports Methodist ministries in Jamaica; a guesthouse in Liberia; and the La Saline Clinic in Port au Prince, Haiti. Your support fulfills children's practical needs, ensuring they have access to food, education, and a nurturing environment to thrive.

Midwest Mission (20%)

Midwest Mission, a depot in the UMCOR relief supply network, brings people together to transform



resources into humanitarian relief so that people's lives are changed for the better, alleviating them from poverty and crisis. Disaster relief, health, education, and micro business supplies are given freely through trusted partner nonprofits internationally and in the United States. This is thanks to countless volunteers and donors—the backbone of Midwest Mission—who work hard to show God's love in a practical way. This includes more than 133 donors and 50 volunteers who came to Midwest Mission from Minnesota in 2024 alone! This year, Midwest Mission is celebrating 25 years of making a difference.

Pastoral Care



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

• For multiple persons in our BGUMC community, and their families, as they journey through many weeks and months of ongoing health concerns.



- Deb Miller's father, Don, who recently fell and shattered his kneecap. Hold him in prayer as he recovers from surgery and gives his all to his restorative physical therapy! Also hold his wife, children, and grandchildren in your hearts as they support him in this unexpected journey.
- Kris Nagel and Allison Janke's dad, who is working with doctors to address medical concerns.
- Don, as he recovers from recent falls.
- Tracie Spinler's co-worker Gail, whose family is trying to surround multiple issues.
- Tracie Spinler's co-worker Stacy, whose children were in a car accident.
- Pastors of Trinity Lutheran Church in Owatonna, one of whom is working through medical concerns, and one of whom mourns the loss of their little baby.
- Baby Kasen, Luke and Bobby Mathern's grandson, and Ben and Sadie's newborn son, as he continues in the phenomenal care of the nurses and doctors of Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, TX. He remains under the close watch of his doctors as he wonderfully gains the strength and stability needed to undergo the next of several more heart surgeries. Please continue to also hold his parents, grandparents, auntie, and his caregivers in your hearts and prayers.
- Gil Christesen's dad who is working with doctors to address medical concerns.
- Mark, the uncle of Marlis Mahler's friend, Alicyn, who is facing significant medical concerns.
- Patti Ellingson's brother, Dan, who is working with doctors to address medical concerns.
- JP, a young friend of Judy Mahler and Hjordi Churchill, as he works with doctors to address medical concerns. Also keep his wife and his dog in your prayers as they surround JP with

- their care, strength, and encouragement.
- The family and friends of Wayne Barbknecht of Janesville (married to Rosanne Hager), as they mourn his passing.
- Prayers of Congratulations and best wishes to Dick Fisher's grandson upon his graduation from Hamline University.
- Prayers of Congratulations and best wishes to Marlis Mahler's niece, Lisa, who has graduated with her master's degree - in Special Education.
- Kathy Morris' son, who has lost his job due to Federal funding cuts that have supported the program in which he has worked.
- Kathy King's grandson, who has upcoming doctor appointments.
- The family and friends of June, the mother of former BG pastor, Cindy Kennedy, who passed away peacefully the morning of May 27th from pneumonia and Sepsis. Cindy thanks you all for your prayers.
- Area United Methodist Churches in the midst of transition, as their pastors retire or are being appointed to other UMCs in Minnesota. Hold these churches in your prayers as they work with the MN UMC Conference in discerning a new pastoral appointment for their congregation.
- Prayers for the victims of the severe flooding, winds, hail, and tornadoes that have created devastation throughout the US.
- Prayers for all in northern MN who are working to combat the raging wildfires, all who have had to evacuate and/or lost their homes and businesses, and everyone who is working to provide support through food and shelter.
- For our world, as we welcome Pope Leo, and learn of all that he stands for in his life and ministry, as he too embodies the message of Jesus: to see and care for all as beloved children of God.
- All in our midst whose care, safety net, and/or jobs are being compromised due to changes in federal funding.
- 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.

THE STRETCH

By Cindy Saufferer Prairie Lakes Parish Love Through Justice Coordinator

As I reflect on this past month's Bible Conversations at Half Pint, my heart is full of gratitude. The fellowship, the depth of discussion, and the authentic community that gathered were truly remarkable. I'm continually in awe of the wisdom shared, the respect extended, and the honor with which each person is heard. And just when it seems the evening can't get any richer, laughter breaks in, reminding us of the joy that comes from being truly present with one another.

This is what community looks like: a safe space where we can wrestle with hard questions, practice the art of listening, and embrace the beauty of not having all the answers. In these conversations, understanding becomes the goal—whether it's a deeper awareness of our own hearts or a deeper understanding for another's perspective. The topics we explore serve not only as conversation starters but as catalysts for meaningful connection as followers of Jesus.

Looking ahead, our next Bible Conversations gathering will be held at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm on Friday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m.* This month, we'll be diving into the topic of hope—what it truly means, how we live it out, and where it might *stretch* us.

Come ready to listen, share, and grow knowing your perspective deepens and strengthens the community. For this, I am truly grateful.

*Note the different place, day of the week and time! Summer is here and there is much juggling to do!

Thank you! Thank You with Warm Hugs!

You've no idea how precious your gifts and tribute to my time with Blooming Grove UMC are. Hmmm--- 14 years since I transferred from WVUMC; I'd not been counting, but when Deaconess Cindy said 14, I was surprised. In some ways it seems like I've been here far longer. On the other hand, it went so fast and seems only a few. Multiple cherished friendships (old and new) have been nurtured over those 14 years. Numerous memories, happy, poignant, funny, stressful, enlightening, challenging and touching have oc-



curred during my time with you. Jerry and I eagerly look forward to and embrace our new adventures living in the Senior Community in Burnsville, along with the new friendships and COUNTLESS activities available to us right under our new roof along with all our Seniors. Yet, at the same time, there's a sadness as this chapter ends and all of you friends become geographically more distant. A very emotional moment occurred when one of my S.S. students looked at me with big sad eyes inquiring, "But then who's gonna be my teacher?"

Your gift of colorful, bright flowers decorates the one area of our home (end of the kitchen/dining room peninsula) which does NOT look like a tornado struck inside our home as we pack and pitch. It brightens my spirits as I slog through **ALL** the downsizing: keep this, donate this, pitch this into trash, try to garage-sale this – and on and on and on. Reminiscing as we discover forgotten or misplaced "treasures" like photos, a report card, love letters. It's difficult to be ruthless and quick in the process, lest we miss the next lost or forgotten "treasure."

Speaking of treasures, your other gift, the beautiful, smooth wooden heart contained within the gift bag BGUMC gave me, is perfect! I LOVE wood things. And this – **this** is the hearts of my Blooming Grove family in the grained wood. It will be cherished in our new home, bringing to mind all of you special people whenever I gaze at it. Some of my own heart is being left behind with you, as well. Your love, your heart (symbolically in this gift), will continue to blossom long after the floral arrangement is gone. Thank you all, for all that you gifted me – over the past 14 years – that came not in gift bags, but rather in your support, your smiles, your hugs, your words, your sharing of yourself.

Here's an open invitation to all of you to come up and visit (the Prayer Brunch Bunch is **DEFINITELY** coming up once we're settled!) You can find us at:

Jerry & Patti Ellingson, Realife Cooperative, 12575 Pleasant Ave., #323, Burnsville, MN 55337

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

The Blooming Grove Visitor Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171 Medford, MN 55049-0171

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

Website: Www.bloominggroveumc.org Email: <u>bloominggroveumc@gmail.com</u> Check us out on Facebook!

Pastoral Care and Emergency and General Pastoral Questions:

Pastor Kathy King kking5@hickorytech.net 507-382-2483

Join Us

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



June 2025

Requests for Prayer Chain Email: Pastor Kathy King at: kking5@hickorytech.net

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