

# 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Blooming Grove UMC Tractor Pull



Forty-five tractors, 27 drivers, and a large crowd of spectators gathered on September 9<sup>th</sup> under a brilliant blue sky and warm temps for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual BGUMC Tractor Pull. The day was set aside for Farm Stock tractors only (no “souped-up” professional pulling tractors), and attracted farmers and friends from near and far.



This year our “pullers” came from as close by as ½ mile down the road to Blooming Prairie, Medford, Faribault, Ellendale, Waseca, Owatonna, New Richland, Winnebago, and Morristown! The tractors came in every color, make, model, and size, including John Deere, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, IH, Massey Harris, and Farmall. Oldest tractors: 1940 Farmalls, belonging to Jim Southworth and Randy Southworth. Newest tractor: 1978 John Deere, belonging to Justin Krell. It was great to see multiple-generations of “pullers” in many families and to watch the passion for these old tractors being enthusiastically carried on by the young adults in attendance.



The pull took place on a SW to NE pulling track prepared in the “Lord’s Acre” just south of the church – a field cropped in hay this year. The tractors were lined up on the south edge of the field, along County Road 7, and were a sight to behold for passers-by. Larry Balzer was in charge, running each tractor through its paces with his pulling sled “The Equalizer”. He ended the day with a total of 50 “hooks” or pulls. His patience, and his



pointers/assistance in helping first-time pullers were greatly appreciated!

Spectators were everywhere...sitting on the church steps, enjoying food at the concession stand, and sitting on blankets and lawn chairs on the church lawn. It was a great day of enjoying the great outdoors with great people!



Thanks to the generosity of all involved, we raised \$815.00 in hook fees and donations, to be divided between the BGUMC restoration fund and Agricultural Mission Projects. In addition, the United Methodist Women took in over \$609.25 at the Concession Stand, with proceeds going toward Medford H.S. scholarships.



We extend our sincere thanks to the many, many people who made this event possible through volunteering their time prior to and during the event, and donating food and beverages. Special thanks to Brad, Tracie, & Alex Spinler and Justin & Kristin Krell for spearheading the event and donating winner’s prizes!

