



THE VISITOR

Change to 10:45 A.M. Worship Time

Starting Sunday, December 5th, we begin our 6-month “Winter/Spring” Sunday Morning Worship Schedule for the Prairie Lakes Parish.

- 8:15 A.M. - Janesville UMC
- 9:30 A.M. - Waterville EUMC
- 10:45 A.M. - Blooming Grove UMC

During this time of year, when weather and road conditions are un-predictable for early morning driving on the part of Pastor Kathy and church members, Janesville UMC will have the first service. BGUMC will have the third service to give time to assess weather, roads, and parking lot conditions before Pastor Kathy sets out on her morning’s cross-country journey. This schedule runs from December through May, at which time Janesville UMC and BGUMC swap times and return to the “Summer/Fall” schedule.



Sunday School Christmas Worship Involvement Sunday Dec. 12th

The pandemic impacted so many things in so many ways. So – we adjust and adapt. Our traditional Sunday school Christmas Program (which has **NEVER** been traditional) can certainly be counted among things affected. This year our youth will have an abbreviated role in the worship service rather than carrying the bulk of the worship time. But they will be there, participating, in front of their church family. There’s not a parent, grandparent, relative or other church member who doesn’t appreciate seeing “the kids” do their thing. And if a word gets stumbled on, or sweet little voices can’t quite be actually heard (or are heard a bit too loudly) our church family understands and loves ‘em all the more for it. If there’s an enthusiastic wave out to the audience and aimed toward.... a parent maybe? Don’t hesitate to wave back, even if you weren’t the intended recipient. Tiny Tim summed it up: “God bless us, everyone.”

Sunday School Schedule



Reminder that beginning **December 5th**, Sunday School switches to a **10:00a.m. – 10:45a.m.** time-frame and church follows directly after Sunday School. Your youngster will be very lonely if you bring him/her to S.S. an hour early!

On Dec. 26th and on Jan. 2nd there **WILL NOT** be any Sunday School classes. When regular school resumes, so will Sunday school – on Jan. 9th which is a 2nd Sunday!!!! See page 7 for 2nd Sunday Funday article

Adopted Family



After missing a year due to COVID, we have again adopted a needy family through the Medford Student Council. Below is information about the family members and things they need or want.

Sign-up sheets will be at church. If you can’t make it to church, call Tracie or Chery and we will note the items on the sign-up sheet for you.

(R1) - 9 year old boy

Shirt size 8/10, pants size 8, shoe size 2/3

Needs: Thermals (not graphic), waterproof gloves, jeans, socks.

Wants: Hot Wheels or Matchbox Muscle cars or super cars.

(R2) - 17 year old girl

Shirt size medium, pants size medium, shoe size 7.

Needs: socks, slipper socks, shirts, driving gloves

Wants: Has no wants so perhaps gift cards to places like Old Navy, Target, Bath and Body, Applebees, Subway, etc.

(R) - Family

Needs: decent wooden spoons, bath towels and any size copper pans.

Do not wrap items. Mark items with identification (R1), (R2), or (R). All items need to be at church by December 11th. If you would like to donate money, give it to Tracie or Chery and someone will do the shopping for you. **(If you want to volunteer to do the shopping, let one of us know.)**

Thanks to everyone for helping to make this a Merry Christmas for the family.



All the Good



¹The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah,[a] the Son of God,[b] ²as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' Mark 1: 1-3

Advent is upon us! This year's Advent focus will be from "All the Good, A Wesleyan Way of Christmas". This devotional study helps us better understand how we can prepare our lives to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ this year of 2021 from the perspective of our Methodist faith. We begin on November 28th considering how we "Practice Advent by preparing the way". December 5th we'll consider "Praying in Advent"; December 12th we'll focus of "Practices of Mercy: how is it that we embody God's love for others?"; and our series wraps up on December 19th with our realization that "Christmas is Only the Beginning, God's intent is to send the Church into the World."

My hope is for each one of us to take this journey through Advent in a new way. I realize that it's not easy to do—especially for those of us who have enjoyed many, many Advent seasons. But God speaks to us in new ways throughout our faith journeys; so, wherever we may find ourselves this 2021 Advent, may we open our hearts to new experiences with our faith families this year and in the year ahead. May each of us commit to a more intentional disciple's role. Jesus needs intentional disciples now and we have the best News to share!

This season of preparation, I want to thank each of you personally for your friendship, your support of my ministry, and your grace when I miss the mark of a good servant. You are each such a blessing and Jerry and I are so very grateful for you. Thank you for your commitment to your beloved church and to the new community created in the Prairie Lakes Parish three-point collaboration.

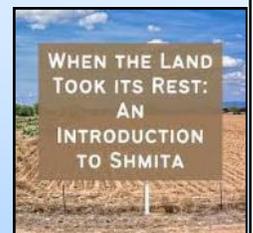
I pray each knows an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ as a beloved child of God! Merry Christmas dear ones!

Live kindly!

Pastor Kathy

Shmita

In the Hebrew tradition there is the concept of the sabbatical year. It is called Shmita (or Shemitah) which means release and is known as the jubilee year where land is left fallow, debts are released, and the perennial harvest redistributed and accessible for all. As you are well aware, the work of ministry is demanding, and we are not the same people when we first began or even five months ago! Shmita, therefore, is an opportunity to step back, to spend an intentional year of learning, reflection and regeneration focusing on an in-depth look at our health and well-being as well as discerning our excellence in ministry and how and where is God calling us in our next seven years. What do we need to claim and hold on to? What do we need to let go of? And what needs to be realigned and shifted? Every clergy is invited into this process once every seven years. Pastor Kathy will be participating in Shmita in 2022. Please hold her in prayer as she participates in this sabbatical year.



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

9 Thurs 7:00 pm Ad Board in Fireside Room
 24 Friday 5:00 pm BG Christmas Eve Service



1 Dawn Karsten	21 Marlis Mahler
4 Walter Karsten	24 Elizabeth Bartosch
6 Carol Karsten	25 Levi Blake
7 Becky Lustig	26 Jenine Koziolk
8 Scot Schmitz	26 Leah Krell
10 Joshua Kanne	28 Riley Poe
12 Fred Fyvie	28 Faye Kanne
13 Weston Janke	29 Sophie Morgan
17 Doug Wilkowske	30 Marge Wilkowske
17 Cindy Kennedy	31 Kaitlyn Kanne
19 Jacob Gasner	



Brian and Linda Kosel
 December 20th

Council Meeting



Our next BGUMC council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9th at 7:00 P.M. Please forward any agenda items to Hjordi Churchill. The meeting will be held in the Fireside Room. Please enter thru the back door as the cement in the addition will be cleaned and surfaced on Thursday.

For Your Viewing Pleasure

If you happen to watch any Disney Christmas specials over the next month, keep an eye out for the Candlelight Processional at Epcot at Walt Disney World. If they happen to televise a performance, you just might see a familiar face in the choir. Deanna Kanne is singing in a number of the performances over the holiday season, including on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. It has not been confirmed that anything will be televised – but you never know! ... Carolyn Kanne



Treasurer's Report



November 2—November 28, 2021

General Budget Income **\$ 2,450.00**

Other Income Received
 Poinsettias 140.00

Expenses
 Sunday School Supplies 328.59
 Church Mutual Insurance 898.00
 D&D Yard Service 415.00
 Century Link 50.29
 Cleaning 45.00

Total Paid Out \$ 1,736.88

(Net Income: + \$ 853.12)

Building Addition

Income
 Restoration Income \$15,312.00

Expenses
 Loan Payment \$3,503.12
 Money Dispersed \$2,116.78

Total Expenses **\$5,619.90**

(Net Income \$9,692.10)

Restoration Fund Balance \$61,821.52

Building Addition Loan \$357,679.47

Parament Colors

December 5, 12, 19 Blue

December 24, 26 White



Greetings from Rev. David

and Lynda Laechel

We are living happily and mostly healthy in Rochester. We are both retired: Dave does volunteer driving for Elder Network and I drive for Olmsted County three days a week. I'm also in a church quilt group and my share of the work takes 6-8 hours a week. We are both Lions: Dave is much more involved with that than me. That is our lives in about three sentences. Please greet people we know.

Blooming Grove UMC

2022 Officers, Teams, and Committees

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email
Church Council (• Voting Member)			
Chair	Brad Spinler	507-461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Lay Leader	Cindy Saufferer	507-363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Carolyn Kanne	507-475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Board of Trustees			
Church Treasurer	Brad Saufferer		
Financial Secretary	Brian Kanne	507-456-8986	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
PPRC Representative	Judy Mahler	507-456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
UMW President	Charlotte Frankenberry	507-676-3544	frankenberryc@gmail.com
Youth Representative	Raelyn or Weston Janke		Wjanke@medfordtigers.org
Education and Events			
Memorials	Chery Southworth	507-339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
Lay Delegate to AC	Judy Mahler	507-456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Justice Through Love Coordinator	Cindy Saufferer	507-363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
Pastor Parish Relations Committee			
Lay Leader	Cindy Saufferer	507-363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
2022	Chuck and Linda Danks	507-456-0348	cldanks@hotmail.com
2023	Judy Mahler	507-456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
2024	Allison Janke	507-456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
Finance Committee			
Church Council Chair	Brad Spinler	507-461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
Lay Leader	Cindy Saufferer	507-363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
Trustee Representative			
Church Treasurer	Brad Saufferer	507-363-6579	b_saufferer@msn.com
Financial Secretary	Brian Kanne	507-456-8986	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Worship Planning			
Pastor	Kathy King	507-382-2483	kking5@hickorytech.net
	Carolyn Kanne	507-475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
	Judy Mahler (musician)	507-456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
	Cindy Saufferer	507-363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
	Chery Southworth (musician)	507-339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
	Patti Ellingson	507-339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email
Trustees			
Class of 2020	Brad Spinler (Chair)	507-461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com
	Dave Brisel	507-521-4742	dbrisel@gmail.com
Class of 2021	Michael Janke	507-456-4806	jankema@hotmail.com
	Brad Saufferer	507-363-6579	b_saufferer@msn.com
Class of 2022	Alex Spinler	507-461-4380	laceyspinler@gmail.com
	Kris Nagel	507-475-0522	jknagel@hotmail.com

Note: The Class of 2020 and 2021 will remain on this committee until the capital building project is completed.

Nominations

Pastor	Kathy King	507-382-2483	kking5@hickorytech.net
Lay Leader	Cindy Saufferer	507-363-9380	cindy.saufferer@gmail.com
2022	Theresa Riecke	507-676-3488	theresariecke@gmail.com
Board Council Chair	Brad Spinler	507-461-2354	bspinler@outlook.com

Education & Events Team

Chair	Patti Ellingson	507-339-2477	peppermint_e@hotmail.com
	Allison Janke	507-456-7840	jankema@hotmail.com
	Linda Danks	507-456-7961	cldanks@hotmail.com
	Lacey Spinler		lacey.spinler@gmail.com

Tech Team

Kristin Krell	507-461-2815	knkrell@gmail.com
Tyler Morgan	507-475-2306	morgantylor90@gmail.com
Gil Christesen	507-210-0777	g_christesen@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary

Carolyn Kanne	507-475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
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Communications

Chery Southworth	507-339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
Judy Mahler	507-456-3937	hcjm@charter.net
Carolyn Kanne	507-475-0100	bckanne@fmwildblue.com
Kristin Krell	507-461-2815	knkrell@gmail.com

Memorials

Chery Southworth	507-339-3534	cherysouth@gmail.com
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Communion Steward

Hjordi Churchill	507-456-1825	hjordi.hc@gmail.com
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Auditors

Note: possibility accounting firm do an audit.



It's Back!

Our Second Sunday – Funday

is back (smiles and



cheers!) Beginning on **January 9th**, our Blooming Grove intergenerational Sunday Fellowship activity will be resuming. Hip, hip hooray! That means, if your age falls anywhere between 2 days old and 116 years old, you are enthusiastically encouraged to come be a part of this gang. *(If you are older than 116 years, and truly feel that you can manage the fun and good feelings that result from attending, please know that we ARE an accessible facility and you're welcome to come, but please be sure that you have a designated driver bring you to, from, and stay in attendance while both you and driver participate.)*

We have some interesting new ideas coming up on Second Sundays, and we're keeping some of our prior "big hits" activities on the schedule.

Reasons to check out **Second Sunday – Funday**:

- It's a family affair – your immediate family, your extended family, and your church family.
- Shared learning/shared experiences. It may, at times, be challenging to decipher if the 4 year old is learning from the 74 year old.... or is the 74 year old's wonderment and awe being renewed by that of the 4 year old? Good question – keep searching.
- We touch other lives; many of our activities are "service" types of things. What we assemble, create or..... whatever – becomes an act of our church family going out into the world to spread His love, our caring, and our physical tangible gift given to another. And, whoops! OUR lives get touched in the process! What a win-win.
- Nummies! That means there's food involved. Treats and eats to keep your blood sugar right up there where it'll energize you (or is that the good feelings energizing you?)
- Laughter, smiles, chuckles, giggles, baby babbles, old geezer guffaws and granny snorts. Whatever you hear in that room, during that activity, will include sounds of happiness and joy. You'll also hear shared conversations and caring.

- Role modeling (including sharing your story *verbally*, but especially by **your actions**). Where, when, and how has your faith -or questioning- your spiritual guidance from Jesus -or difficulty discerning that guidance- your abundance -or your needs- your **soul** been impacted by your relationship with Christ and with your Christian family? See also #2 above; that 8 or 11 or 16 year old just might amaze you with some role modeling of their own life-walks, no matter how short.
- Warm fuzzies, good feelings and a sense of having had fun. You'll come away with a Positive attitude (with a capital P) after a **Funday**. Well, it's built right into the name.
- Connecting, or reconnecting with someone you may not know as well. You know, the guy who sits w - a - y across the aisle and nine rows up from your pew. One of the obstacles of being a member of a huge church body is that it's huge. Well, ours is a manageable sized church body (wink, wink), but nevertheless encounters with members you may not interact with as often, can be very fruitful.
- You won't be late for church service; you're already here. Or, if we run a titch overtime having fun, you'll be walking into the sanctuary in the good company of others so you still can't be considered "late" for church if there're several of you, right?

Reasons NOT to come to **Second Sunday – Funday**:

- A. You're in the hospital or you're contagious with some "bug."
- B. You're out of state.
- C. There's a blizzard and church is cancelled.
- D. guess that's about it.

...Patti Ellingson

Fleece blanket tying from a past Second Sunday



So what's in store for us on Jan. 9th? Remember tying fleece blankets? We're going to have a not-so-instant-replay of blanket making. Get your fingers nimble up for tying and your hearts warmed up for giving. We have a new group all excited about these blanket gifts from us. Rachel's Light, a shelter for women and children experiencing temporary homelessness, and located on the outskirts of Meriden, has been contacted and is thrilled to be recipients. They provide not only an urgent safe shelter, but also assist the women in getting back on their feet, finding independent housing when ready, and on-going mentoring and other assistance. You know there's going to be jibber-jabber amongst us as we get things "all tied up," and yes, you guessed it, you can anticipate treats. All materials will be provided except the nimble fingers and giving hearts – you gotta bring those yourself. **See you on Jan. 9th in the Fireside Room, 'cuz if you miss it, you'll miss it!**

Advent and Christmas Mission Offering Kamisamba Farm and Training Center



Join us as we support the important work of the Kamisamba Farm and Training Center (KFTC) in the Democratic Republic of Congo through our Advent & Christmas Mission Offering. Here's how!

- Drop off weekly offerings of loose change and/or other larger donations for the KFTC in our "Noisy Can" offering receptacle.
- Support the KFTC in your Advent, Christmas, and Year-End gifting.
- Pray for the KFTC leaders, staff, and community members who are integral parts in sharing God's love, justice, and caring for neighbor.

For donations that you would like noted on your annual BGUMC giving statement, please write a check (to BGUMC) or place your donation in an offering envelope with your name identified on the front. On each, please indicate "Kamisamba Farm".

The KFTC comprises of a training school that gives trainings to farmers from different communities on crop production, animal husbandry, marketing and monitoring and evaluation. There is also about 200 Hectares (494 acres) of land. Part of this is used for production and also as a model for the different trainings that occur at the school centre. They have had great success and testimonies of lives being impacted due to the trainings which have happened. People testify on improved production, nutrition, sustainable utilization and conservation management of natural resources. After the training, community trainers are allocated in the different communities to give trainings and monitor their progress.

The farm is doing well – with 50 pigs, chickens, ducks, goats and fish ponds. They farm more than 35 acres with vegetables, grains and fruit trees. They've held trainings in 21 of North Katanga's 24 districts, and provided seeds, animals, small fish or saplings to participants. Training onsite in communities helps Kamisamba workers discern which type of production has the best chance to thrive in a given area. After training, they visit again to accompany people through the first growing season. As farmers experience increased yields, training on marketing and conserving seed for the next season helps them gain perspective on farming as a business beyond subsistence.



Christmas Poinsettias



Greenwald's Nursery is again offering the opportunity to order poinsettias (red, white, pink) through them this year at a cost of \$16.00 (includes delivery to BGUMC). A double poinsettia will also be available for \$28.00. Please order your poinsettias by **December 6th** for delivery by December 12th. If you choose, you may designate your poinsettia to be "in honor of" or "in memory of" someone important in your lives. These designations will be listed in a Sunday morning bulletin and the bulletin for Christmas Eve. A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the church or you can return this form to Chery Southworth, 26651 Elmore Avenue, Morristown, MN 55052 (Phone: (507) 685-4174 or Email Cherysouth@gmail.com). Make checks payable to BGUMC with "poinsettia" in the note section. Check can also be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church at PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049.

Given By: _____

Number _____ Size _____ Color: _____ Include Bow

Number _____ Size _____ Color: _____ Include Bow

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

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.

- Adam, the nephew of Patti Ellingson's son, who was hit by a car while driving home from work on his motorcycle on a foggy night in October. Adam suffered severe injuries throughout his body. He has undergone multiple surgeries and continues on a lengthy rehab journey. Adam has 2 pre-school age boys who rely heavily on him for care. Please pray for Adam and his family as they travel this difficult road together.
- The family, friends, and classmates of a U of M St. Paul Campus student who passed away in November.
- Little Kinsley, grand-daughter of Ken and Tena Harren, who completed her 17th surgery - this to un-fuse her elbow to give her at least 30% range of motion. A successful surgery and rehab gives little Kinsley the opportunity to learn to feed herself!
- Linda, who missed a step getting down from the combine, and broke a shoulder bone.
- Emma, the niece of Kristin Ziemke (Janesville), as she undergoes procedures to fix broken teeth - resulting from a diving accident.
- Jodi, from Janesville UMC, as she recovers from surgery.
- The family of Curt Wetzel, brother of Don Wetzel of the Waterville church, as they mourn his passing.
- Ken Harren's brother Dennis, who is hospitalized with an aggressive form of lung cancer.
- Carol Karsten's sister, Shirley, who was hospitalized after a fall, and now is in the midst of the hard work of recovery and rehab.
- Char, who will undergo knee replacement surgery in December.
- Kelli Prchal's husband Joe's uncle, "Little Joe" - who has been diagnosed with leukemia and is set to begin chemotherapy. "Little Joe" and his wife have several grade-school aged children.
- Prayers of thanks for little Bowen, and his mom and dad, Alex and Lacey, as they celebrate a miraculous Mayo Clinic check-up that revealed

no new kidney stones have formed!

- Pastor Kathy's mom, Dee - and all of Dee's family - as Dee continues in hospice care at the skilled nursing care facility in Janesville.
- Marge, Cindy Saufferer's mom in Kansas, who faces ongoing health concerns. Also pray for Cindy, and for Cindy's sister, Patti, as they travel this journey with their mom.
- For all impacted by COVID in so many ways - through personal illness, hospitalization, loss of loved ones, impact on jobs. And for all working to analyze and understand the new Omicron variant and its potency, as well as working to develop new vaccines and treatment plans.
- For all facing conflict, war, and terror. For those in the path of severe weather, fire, and famine-like conditions. For all working to provide protection, assistance, relief, and rescue to those whose lives are in such danger.
- All in our faith community who privately hold heavy concerns in their hearts. 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, and trust.

BGUMC Building Project Thank You and Moving Forward



Thank you to everyone who has provided their help in making our dream come true of creating an accessible entry-way at BGUMC that provides inclusion for all. As the saying goes, "it takes a village" - and we invite, encourage, and welcome you to continue as part of that village into the future. Please join us in the following:

- Contact Pastor Kathy King and/or your Council Chair to be part of brainstorming for fund-raising events and activities to be carried out by the congregation.
- Support the building project with your ongoing donations. Enter "Restoration Fund" in the memo line of your check or on your offering envelope.
- Thank you, in advance, for your energy, involvement, and support as we move forward together.

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

December 2021

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

Physical Address:

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

Mail to: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

Website: www.bloominggroveumc.org

Email: bloominggroveumc@gmail.com

Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency
and General Pastoral Questions:**

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



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Pastor Kathy King at:

kking5@hickorytech.net

Visitor Staff:

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

26651 Elmore Avenue

Morristown, MN 55052

(507) 339-3534

CherySouth@gmail.com

Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

Brad Saufferer, Writer

Patti Ellingson, Writer

Cindy Saufferer, Writer

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

**We invite you, your family, friends, and neighbors to join us as we gather in-person
for Advent and Christmas Worship:**

“All the Good, a Wesleyan Way of Christmas”

11/28/21 - 10:45 A.M. - 1st Sunday of Advent: “Practicing Advent - Preparing the Way”

12/05/21 - 10:45 A.M. - 2nd Sunday of Advent: “Praying in Advent” and Holy Communion

12/12/21 - 10:45 A.M. - 3rd Sunday of Advent: “Practices of Mercy - Embodying God’s Love for Others” and involvement from our Sunday School Children

12/19/21 - 10:45 A.M. - 4th Sunday of Advent: “Christmas is Only the Beginning
God Sends the Church to the World”

12/24/21 - 5:00 P.M. - Christmas Eve: “The Legend of the Christmas Prayer”

12/26/21 - 10:45 A.M. - 1st Sunday after Christmas: “Christmas Stories & Carols”

