



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 90, Issue 5

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

May 2025

Amazing Response to our Lent/Easter Mission: Hurricane Helene and California Wildfires

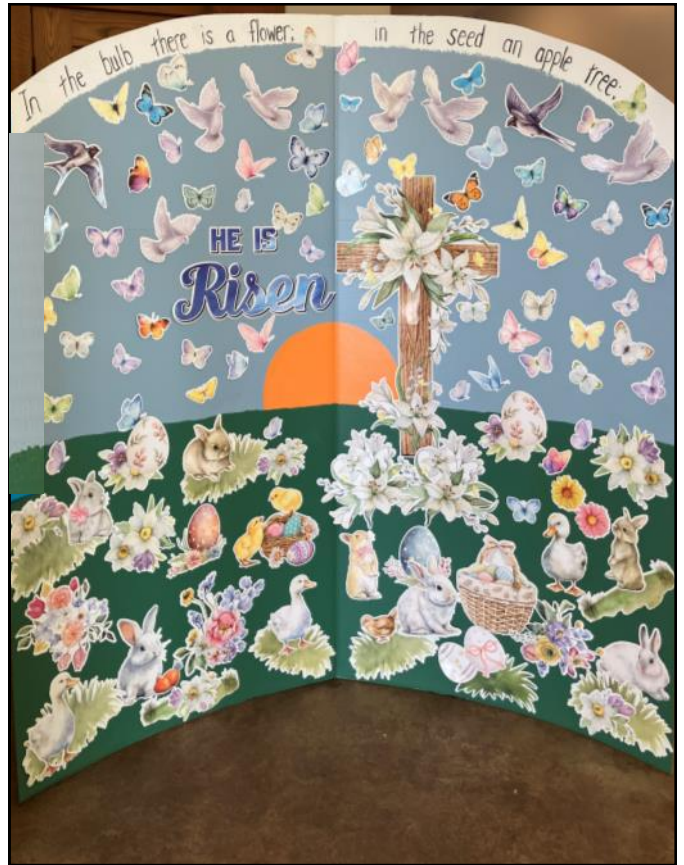
A heartfelt thank you to all from our BGUMC community of faith who participated in our Lent/Easter Mission, raising the incredible amount of \$1,136.50 to go toward disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Helene and the California wildfires! All donations received will be divided @ 50/50 between Hurricane Relief and Wildfire Relief.

For each \$10 raised, we added one new sign of spring and hope to our Hymn of Promise Easter Garden Mural in the south addition – a new flower or spring of grass, butterfly or bird, little creature or Easter egg! By Sunday, April 27th, our mural was full to the brim, and bursting forth with life!

All funds will be channeled to these relief efforts through the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This 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.

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.



Come and join us during 10:45 A.M. worship on Sunday, May 11th, as we celebrate and dedicate these generous disaster relief gifts prior to sending them on their way to help people in need!

MAY CALENDAR

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

8	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
13	Tues	6:00 pm	Bible Conversations
21	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at The Kernel Owatonna
22	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
25	Sun	11:45 am	Senior Recognition Sunday

May 26—June 9th
 Pastor Kathy on vacation.
 Elden Ecklund will be the on-call
 pastor during my vacation
 beginning May 26th going through
 June 9th. 507-339-1036

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2	Matt Mullenbach	14	Carly Lisowski
2	Taylor Nagel	16	Tanecka Poe
2	Lacey Spinler	18	Michael Janke
3	Jerry Ellingson	20	Allison Jesse
6	Carolyn Engebretson	24	Brandon Martin
6	David Kanne	25	Jim Karsten
9	Emery Krell	29	Mya Gasner
9	Addison Poe	29	Brittany Kosel
9	Amanda Rollins	30	Sherry Wacek
13	Mary Karsten	31	Cody Yule

Happy Anniversary

5	Tess & Quinn Christenson
14	Dick & Trudi Fisher



Treasurer's Report

April 30, 2025



General Budget Income	\$ 3,955.00
UMCOR	595.00
Youth Program	400.00
Visitor	85.00
Easter Flowers	259.00
Cemetery	100.00
Total Income	5,394.00

Expenses	
Pastor's Salary	2,268.75
Century Link	57.77
Greenwald's Green House	718.95
Total Paid Out	\$ 3,045.47
(Net Income: + \$2,348.53)	

Building Addition

Income	
Restoration	\$ 500.00
Total Income	\$ 500.00
Expenses	
Loan Payment	\$ 5,505.13
Total Paid Out	\$ 5,505.13
(Net Income: — \$5,005.13)	

Summer Fish Fry



Come join us on July 20th for our fourth annual summer fish fry at the Half Pint Brewery. Serving time is 4:30-7:30 and it is a free will offering as always. Once again it will be deep fried walleye, french fries, coleslaw, root beer floats and home-made desserts.

If anyone wants to volunteer to help cook and serve or bake desserts, give Brad Saufferer a call at 507-363-6579. Hope to see you all there.



A big thank you to everyone who helped to bring together another great Easter breakfast! From those who cleaned beforehand, those who set things up, those who brought delicious food, those who helped serve that food and those who cleaned up afterward, we had great help all along the way. Many hands make light work.



Alpha and Omega



"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." Revelation 1: 8 NIV

He is Risen! We live in this 2025 Easter season as those who have the incredible story of the One who holds our beginning, our today, and our tomorrow. Can we understand the reality of our Creator, Redeemer, and the Spirit who ensure that we need not worry about our past, our present, or our future?

Too many of us see the injustices occurring these days and wonder if we are forgotten. I am reminded of the Hebrew people who endured the injustice of the Roman empire. We know the outcome of that story but it's hard to trust when we know people are living in the midst of persecution and need. How are we being called to be the people of God; followers of Jesus Christ in these days? It is easy to overlook injustice when it doesn't impact our daily lives, but we run the risk of being those who "did not do for the least of these" when we choose not to see the marginalization of injustice. We are called to action when we say we are disciples of Jesus Christ. How can we step up? I leave that consideration to each of you, dear ones. But my prayer is that society sees the power of our Alpha and Omega through our actions.

Big "thank you's" to everyone who contributed to the Blooming Grove's Mission focus for the Lenten and Easter season. Blooming Grove's generosity raised over \$1000 for Hurricane Helene and California Wildfires Disaster relief.

The busyness of our Easter celebration is behind us, but we have many opportunities to serve in the coming late spring and summer seasons. On May 4th, we celebrate Confirmation Sunday. We are blessed to have two young ladies in Janesville and one in Waterville who will be confirmed. Our confirmation classes begin again in September. If you have someone who will be in 7th grade in September (or older), please reach out to me and I will include you and your confirmand in our email list when our season begins again. Blooming Grove is already planning their July Walleye Fish Feed at the Half-Pint. Watch the Visitor, Waterville Words, and your bulletins for that opportunity and others as our late Spring and Summer seasons progress.

I pray you are enjoying these days and see them as the incredible gift of life that the Alpha and Omega created them to be. Jerry, Eddie, and I are blessed by each one of you!

In his grace,

Pastor Kathy



**Thank you to everyone who
honored loved ones with
flowers to make the Altar
beautiful for Easter.**

Dave & Sheryl Brisel

*In Memory of Charlie & Berniece Brisel
In Memory of John & Margaret Schmidt
In Memory of Betty Brisel Koppin*

Hjordi Churchill

*In Memory of Dean Kremmin
In Memory of Claire and Beverly Churchill*

Chuck & Linda Danks

In Memory of Family Members

Patti & Jerry Ellingson

*In Memory of our parents: Bill & Marvyl Patton
In Memory of our parents: Luther & Ruby Ellingson*

Brian & Carolyn Kanne

*In Memory of Ray & Ruth Lemke
In Memory of Harold & Faye Kanne*

Deanna & Michael Kanne

*In Memory of Ray & Ruth Lemke
In Memory of Harold & Faye Kanne*

LeAnn Kanne

In Memory of Harold & Faye Kanne

Carol Karsten

*In Memory of Don Karsten
In Memory of Cindy Karsten
In Memory of Kenny Karsten
In Memory of My Siblings*

Jerry & Kathy King

In Honor of Blooming Grove

Bobbi & Luke Mathern

In Memory of Dad and Brothers

Keith & Shelley McColley

*In Memory of Clayton & Marlene McColley
In Memory of Glenn & June McColley*

Matt & Amanda Rollins

*In Memory of Mary Henry
In Memory of Step Parents*

Bonnie Lima

*In Memory of Mario Lima
In Memory of Jess & Nora Saufferer*

Brad & Cindy Saufferer

*In Memory of Dan & Marge Cartmill
In Memory of Harold & Eleanor Saufferer
In Memory of Danny Cartmill*

Jim & Chery Southworth

*In Memory of Roger & Glorene Southworth
In Memory of LaVern & Vida Wendt*

Brad & Tracie Spinler & Family

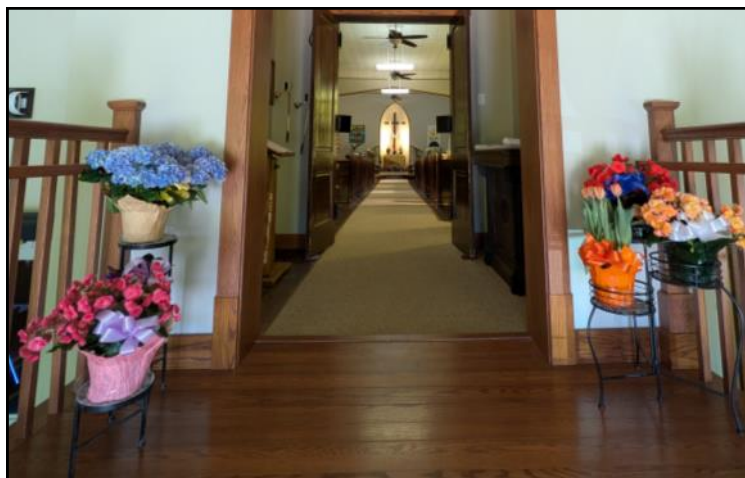
*In Memory of Harold & Leona Minske
In Memory of Harold & Eleanor Saufferer
In Memory of Marissa Spinler*

Cris & Karrie VanZuilen & family

*In Honor of Jeanne Michel
In Memory of Don Michel
In Memory of Phil & Therese VanZuilen*

Tom & Sherry Wacek

In memory of Grandparents



Hats Off!!!



Three of our “church family” are celebrating graduations this spring. There’s likely a sigh of relief, sense of accomplishment, and perhaps even a bit of anxious trepidation as they each open the next door of their future.

Allison Jesse, daughter of Bob and Deecy Brisel (granddaughter of Dave and Sheryl Brisel), will flip her tassel on May 17th as she graduates from North Dakota State University, Fargo. She’s earned her Bachelor of Science and Art Degree, having majored in Graphic Design, with a minor in Film Production.



Parker Nelson, son of Paul Nelson and Erin Brisel Nelson (grandson of Dave and Sheryl Brisel), receives his High School diploma on May 23rd. Parker is graduating from Waconia (MN) High School, with plans to attend Hope University in Liverpool, UK. Yes, you read that right, Liverpool, England – he’s *really* leaving the nest! Parker is looking to major in Business and continue his passion of playing soccer while at Uni. (Well, actually, that’s **football**, but stateside we call it soccer).

Easton Danks, son of Dale and Lindsay Danks (grandson of Chuck and Linda Danks), will be honored as a Waseca High School graduate on June 1st. Easton’s post H.S. plans are to join the United States Army; his goal to work as Military Police. His long-range vision includes plans of becoming a Highway Patrol Officer, following his time in the Army.

As a church body, we celebrate each of these three graduates along with their parents and grandparents; our prayers go with them as they now carry their spark forward into the next phase of their young adult lives.



Celebration Sunday



As the weeks rush rapidly forward, this month marks endings and beginnings. The final day of Sunday School will be May 18th. Directly following S.S. classes will be Celebration Sunday during worship service; kids – please stay for church, everyone else please join us in church as we have many to honor, to recognize, and to celebrate. We have 3 graduates in our church family (see article elsewhere in the Visitor). We have 1 young lady, Leah Krell, who’ll be receiving her own Bible from the church, as she completes her 3rd grade year. And lastly, we have Education leaders and facilitators who’ve shared their time and skills with youth and adults, aiding growth in Christian and Methodist knowledge, in spiritual depth, and in community with each other: Confirmation leaders, Book Study leaders, Advent and Lenten study facilitators, Sunday School teachers and substitutes.... and anyone else we feel like celebrating, we’ll just celebrate ‘em. So don’t miss out! Let’s celebrate!

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.

- Baby Kasen, Luke and Bobby Mathern's grandson, and Ben and Sadie's newborn son. Kasen was born with health concerns that had been closely monitored during pregnancy, and is spending the first part of his life within the phenomenal care of the nurses and doctors of Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, TX. Within the first month of his life, he has already undergone two surgeries (one a major heart surgery) and has battled an infection. He remains under the close watch of his doctors as he gains the strength and stability needed to undergo the next of several more heart surgeries. Please continue to hold Kasen, his parents, grandparents, auntie, and his caregivers in your hearts and your prayers.
- A nurse co-worker of Val Mullenbach's, as she wrestles with her own significant health concerns, and also continues to care for her two children, who are experiencing medical concerns as well.
- The family, friends, and students of a beloved 6th grade teacher at Medford Public Schools, who passed away from cancer.
- 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.
- Chuck, as he continues with doctor appointments.
- Vickie, niece of Linda Kosel, who has been diagnosed with cancer. Also hold Vickie's significant other in your prayers as he walks this journey with her.
- Janice, a cousin of Linda Danks, who is experiencing health concerns.
- All in our midst whose care, safety net, and/or jobs are being compromised due to changes in federal funding.
- The family and friends of Joanne, aunt of Sheryl Brisel, who passed away in April.
- Mark, the uncle of Marlis Mahler's friend Allison. Mark has been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer.



- Prayers for the victims of the severe flooding in Tennessee.
- For our world, as we mourn the death of Pope Francis and give thanks for all that he stood for in his life and ministry, as he embodied the message of Jesus: to see and care for all - as beloved children of God.
- 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.

Prayer Shawl Thank-you



Oh Linda! What a welcomed wonderful gift and a surprise as well! How very thoughtful of you to send me the shawl. You have blessed me! I wrapped myself in the prayers, the blessings of all who participate in this

mission, when I put the shawl around me. Thank you for the comfort it brings. God bless you. With love, Jan. (87-year-old cousin of Linda Danks.)

Congratulations



We celebrate the birth of Callie and Marcus's new baby, Henry Anthony DeLeon, born on April 11th.

Mon & Dad are taking in all the snuggles.

Thomas is doing great in his new roll as big brother.

Proud grandparents are James and Kris Nagel.





In Sympathy

Kevin P. Zellner, born February 23, 1959, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family & friends on April 5, 2025, at his home in Rockaway Beach, Missouri. Born with a spirit of resilience and joy in Minneapolis,

Minnesota, Kevin's journey through life was marked by a passion for craftsmanship, a love for cars, and an unwavering commitment to his family and friends.

Kevin's youthful days were spent at Richfield Senior High, where he laid the foundation for his future. His education there, along with the acquisition of various trade certifications, set him on a path of skilled labor that would define much of his professional life. Kevin's hands were rarely still, as he spent many years as a welder and metal fabricator at Chart Industries in New Prague, MN, honed his woodworking skills at R&L in Lonsdale, MN, and later took on the role of a machine operator at Post in Northfield, MN. His work was not just a job but a testament to his attention to detail and the pride he took in creating something lasting and valuable.

Beyond his professional life, Kevin's heart was truly at home with his family. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Debbie Zellner, with whom he shared a bond that was both tender and strong. Kevin was a proud father to his children, Kelli (Joe) Prchal and Reid (Desiree) Zellner. His role as a grandfather was one he cherished deeply, always having time for Andres Speiker, Devin Zellner, Ila Prchal, Thomas Prchal, and Jersey Zellner. The joy of his later years was magnified by the arrival of his great-granddaughter, Oaklynn Speiker.

Kevin's interests were as robust as his work ethic. His love for cars was more than a hobby; it was a part of his very essence. Whether he was tinkering under the hood, attending car shows, or simply talking shop with fellow enthusiasts, Kevin was in his element. This passion was only rivaled by the joy he found in spending time with his family and friends. He had a knack for making every gathering memorable, whether through his quick wit, his hearty laughter, or his willingness to lend a hand. Those who knew Kevin will remember him as a man who lived to help others. His generosity extended beyond his immediate circle as he often reached out to support those in need, expecting nothing in return. His legacy is one of kindness, dedication, and the love he shared so freely.

Kevin's life was a tapestry of the many lives he touched with his warmth and generosity. His absence will be

deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him, yet his spirit will continue to inspire and guide us. Though he has left this earthly realm, the memories of Kevin will remain a comforting presence in the hearts of his beloved family and the community he so cherished.

As the sun sets on a life so vibrantly lived, we bid farewell to Kevin, a man of integrity, humor, and profound love. His journey was one of purpose, filled with the laughter of children, the companionship of friends, and the unbreakable bonds of family. Kevin's story does not end here, for he lives on in the lessons he taught, the lives he enriched, and the love he gave—a love that will echo through generations.

In honor of Kevin's memory, we celebrate a life well-lived and a man well-loved. He has left an indelible mark on this world, and though we mourn his passing, we also rejoice in having known such a remarkable soul. Rest in peace, Kevin Zellner; your legacy will endure forever.

Celebration of Life took place Saturday April 26, 2025, at Washburn-McReavy Dawn Valley Chapel, 9940 Bush Lake Rd, Bloomington MN.

Kevin requested that memorials be sent to either: St. Jude Hospital &/or T2T.org



**Blooming Grove United
Methodist Church
Board Council Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2025**



Players. He is looking for ideas on how to use it. It was suggested to see if the kids could do a pizza-making day at Pleasant Grove. Carolyn will send the CVP a thank-you note.

PPRC

- ◆ Deb reported that the PPRC has met once to get organized, and worked with Pastor Kathy on setting her vacation.,

Communication

- ◆ Nothing new to report at this time.

Worship

- ◆ Carolyn reported a brief meeting on a snowy night to plan Easter. This was accomplished, and everyone got home safely before dark. We will be meeting again to plan the upcoming joint services.

UWOF

- ◆ Getting the Easter Breakfast organized. The sign-up sheet is now full. We will be setting up on Saturday, April 19th at 9:00. Flowers will be delivered before that point.

Mission

- ◆ Bobbi Mathern created our cool Easter mural for tracking our Lent/Easter offering for disaster relief. Total at this point in \$441.50. We will meet in May to decide what's next.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **Minnesota Annual Conference:** Registration is open. The theme is Created for Love, and it will be held in St. Cloud.

Miscellaneous

- ◆ Still looking for fundraising ideas to help pay down the building loan.
- ◆ Michael and Brian showed a copy of a receipt found by a Kanne family member in the back of an old desk. The receipt was for the purchase of the bell. They requested permission to frame it and hang it in the bell tower. Everyone agreed.

Lent/Easter Input

Head Stone Cleaning: The family of Charles and Patricia Parrish will be inurning their parents in May and have requested someone to clean the headstone. Deb will ask her son about that task. They also asked about available restrooms. Chery will come and open the church that day.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 23rd at 7 pm

Closing Prayer – Deb provided the closing prayer.

Carolyn Kanne, Board Secretary

In attendance: Pastor Kathy and Jerry King, Deb Miller, Hjordi Churchill, Marlis Mahler, Michael Kanne, Nicole Wacek, Brian and Carolyn Kanne, Brad Spinler, Chery Southworth, Patti Ellingson, Brad Saufferer

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kathy

Review of 1/8/2025 minutes: Approved by consensus

Financial Reports:

- ◆ Treasurer's Report: Nicole reported that we will be paying our apportionments semi-annually, and she has made the first payment
- ◆ Financial Secretary Report: accepted as submitted

Trustees Report:

- ◆ Birds have been getting in through the chimneys. The trustees are checking on chimney caps and who can install them. They may check with Matt Mullenbach on this.

Old Business

Nominations:

- ◆ 2025 Nominations (A huge thank you to Cindy Saufferer for all the work on Nominations) Leadership list approval. A list is not required by Conference, but names are listed in the People Portal. This list was approved.

Team Reports

Pastor's Report

- ◆ Annual Conference information is in. It will be held June 11-13. The Love Offering is split between Africa University, Immigration Law and Justice Network, OC Ministries (formerly Operation Classroom), and Midwest Mission.
- ◆ Kathy has her 5 weeks of vacation on the calendar. The Worship Team is aware and working on pulpit supply.

Deaconess

- ◆ Cindy was at Nora's concert; no report.

Education and Events

- ◆ Patti reported that there are two Sundays of Sunday School left for the year. We will be presenting one Bible this year, and she is looking for any graduation information.
- ◆ Brad Saufferer mentioned that we received \$400 for our youth group from the Cannon Valley

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

May 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:**

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Join Us

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



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An Easter Message found in “Hymn of Promise”, #707 in our United Methodist Hymnal, written by Natalie Sleeth:



In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning, in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.