



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE VISITOR

Volume 86, Issue 1

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

January 2022



## Upcoming BGUMC Council Meetings

**Wednesday, January 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**

Zoom meeting to approve our 2022 budget and the completed conference forms listed below - prior to their submission to the MN Conference of the UMC:

- Trustees Report - Form 10 (Brad Spinler and/or Brad Saufferer)
- Checklist for Protection of Church Finances - Form 11 (Hjordi Churchill)
- Fund Balance and Certification of Annual Audit - Form 12 (???)
- 2022 Budget (BG Finance Team)
- Missions Report - Form 13 (Judy Mahler)
- Annual Report of Appointed or Assigned Clergy - Form 14 (Pastor Kathy)
- Note: Annual year-end Tables I, II, and III are due to the conference by March 15, 2022 (Carolyn Kanne)

By Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, email all completed forms to Judy Mahler [hbjm@charter.net](mailto:hbjm@charter.net) and she will compile them and forward them on to all council members. Forms can be found at this link on the MN United Methodist Church website <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/formdetail/church-conference-packet-2260279>

**Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 P.M.**

Regular Council Meeting (prior to Lent beginning the first week in March).

- Details will be included in our February newsletter RE format (Zoom or Live) and/or location.



## Come One—Come All

Don't forget to join us on January 9<sup>th</sup> as we resume our

**Second Sunday – Fun Day!!**  
our **intergenerational** activity time

Creating blankets by tying fleece fabrics together is on the docket for this month. This has been a very popular (and fun) event in the past, it takes minimal skill and there's always some great socialization – across all ages – that takes place. Mark your calendar and please join us at 10:00am in the Fire-side Room (and spreading to the other S.S. rooms too). You won't regret it.



## Intergenerational

**Pizza and**

**Movie Night**

**Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00 P.M.**

Our Sunday School teachers, Brad Saufferer and Mike Nicholson, invite everyone to a pizza and movie night on Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 P.M. - in the new addition at church! This is an intergenerational Sunday School event, with welcome extended to people of all ages. Come gather together for a time of fun, food, and fellowship!



## ***In Our Midst***



*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the  
Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”’  
Joshua 1:9 NIV*

Happy New Year. Although this year is the beginning of a new way of life for me and my family, can we see it as a time for possibilities. Many of us shy away from new experiences and new ways of thinking—after all; we like familiar things and are fearful of surprises because they can take us way out of our comfort zone. But if we are courageous and open to new experiences, God may make this the best year of our lives.

As I write this article, I’ve just returned from a ride down Janesville’s Main Street. My heart was warmed by what I saw during that drive. My daughter-in-law, Julie, decorated her Jeep with Christmas lights and we joined vehicles of every kind to form a parade for little Ethan Delaske. Ethan loves big trucks and tractors and there were more trucks and tractors than I could have imagined in our small community. Cars, SUVs, tow trucks, semis, fire trucks, huge tractors—all lighted festively with horns honking as they drove past a little boy dying of cancer. God was right there in the midst of all those vehicles—in the midst of the noise; in the midst of the love extended to Ethan.

It is my hope that we can use our coming days to continue to build community within our church families. Think of the possibilities of three church families working together to support one another—thinking of one another as friends on our journey. This year, I hope to gather individuals from each church’s leadership to work together to vision for our connected community. If you would like to be a part of that group, please reach out to me? We can be strong and courageous because we know the Lord our God is with us wherever we go—whatever we do.

Let us see 2022 as our year to walk bravely as the Children of God.

Live bravely!




*Pastor Kathy*

# January 2022

**Blooming Grove**  
Morning Worship..... 10:45 am  
Sunday School .....10:00 am

**Janesville**  
Morning Worship .. 8:15 am

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

						1 
					Pastor's Day Off	
2	3	4	5 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	6 	7  Pastor's Day Off	8
9	10	11	12 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	13	14  Pastor's Day Off	15
16	17 6 pm WV Ad Council 	18	19 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	20	21  Pastor's Day Off	22
23 1-2 WV youth tubing at Camp Omega	24	25	26 6-7 pm Acts 29 at WV	27	28	29
30	31		7 pm BG Ad Board Meet- ing by Zoom		Pastor's Day Off	

## JANUARY CALENDAR

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

26 Wed 7:00 pm Ad Council Zoom Meeting



4 Charlie Brecht	23 Haley Nagel
10 Burch Buchholz	25 Callie DeLeon
10 Jerry Mahler	25 Jim Nagel
13 Jennifer (Danks) Beck	28 Brad Spinler
17 Derek Bartosch	30 Annette Sharp
19 Chris Fyvie	30 JJ Morgan
22 Linda Kosel	31 Erin Nelson

### Parament Colors

January 2	White
January 9	White
January 16	Green
January 23	Green
January 30	White



### Guest Worship Leaders in January



Pastor Kathy will be on vacation and rest-break from Monday, December 27<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. We continue to hold Pastor Kathy and her family in our prayers as they journey through these days after the death of Pastor Kathy's mom, Dee.

We invite you to join us as we welcome our guest worship leaders for the first two Sundays in January. We greatly appreciate their presence with us, not only on the Sundays that they lead us in worship, but also as they hold us in their hearts as they prepare our Sunday morning services.

- Sunday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> - 10:45 A.M. - Worship Leader - Cindy Saufferer
- Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup> - 10:45 A.M. - Worship Leader - Pastor Sharon Nelson

## Treasurer's Report

November 29—December 28, 2021



### General Budget Income

**\$ 4,451.00**

### Other Income Received

Poinsettias	224.00
Cemetery	600.00
Sunday School	2.35
Kamasamba Farm	484.58

### Expenses

Pastor's Salary (Nov. & Dec.)	3,189.40
Annual Conference Apportionments	5,725.82
Cleaning	60.00
Septic Pumping	305.00
Gift Card/Adopted Family	100.00
Century Link	50.29
Excel Energy	101.62
Cokesbury (Church Supplies)	153.13

### Total Paid Out

**\$ 9,685.26**

**(Net Income: – \$3,923.33)**

### Building Addition

#### Income

Restoration Income	\$5,931.29
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#### Expenses

Loan Payment	\$3,505.13
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**(Net Income + \$2,426.16)**

Restoration Fund Balance	\$64,247.68
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Building Addition Loan	\$354,606.71
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## “When the Song of the Angels Is Stilled”

By Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among people,  
To make music in the heart.



## Youth Involvement Christmas Sunday....

### Everyone Involvement Every Day

If you were there in attendance, you sensed it; I've no doubt you felt it permeating every aspect of your being. God's love, God's grace, the Spirit's presence amongst us all. Holy. Joyful. Uplifting. Loving. Caring. Peaceful. Grace. Mercy. Breathe in; breathe out. Sunday, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, began with a host of contradictions and challenges surmounted. Our beautiful new entry and gathering place, floor freshly stained, wasn't ready for us to "gather" because a blizzard and unexpected work schedules of our volunteer workers prevented its completion by Sunday. But tippy-toeing in, we could still admire it's beauty. Our precious Pastor Kathy's mom, Dee, had her Home-going on 2 days prior – expected? Well, anticipated in the "soon," which suddenly was **now**. Our lay speaker (Cindy Saufferer—Deaconess), less than 24 hours previous, graciously accepted the pastoral responsibilities for the service. Sorrow and empathy for Kathy's (and family's) loss, yet also a bit of relief in that Dee's struggles are behind her and she was ready, as Kathy had recently shared with us. Prayerful thoughts of several other people, and events, on our minds. Inhale; exhale. Christmas program time, but.... Covid – Sunday School abbreviated. Rethink, re-plan. Let the Spirit guide.

As Cindy welcomed everyone, requesting our understanding and grace as our "flexibility" was called for, and as she glanced heavenward in a petition for God's hand on the wheel, already one could feel this was a sacred day. The sanctuary, quite full, (what a joy!) was lopsidedly heavy on the east side pews, but with so many of our congregation participating, yes "serving" during the service, the Chancel became wonderfully lopsided, too. THREE generations of Nicholson family doing the Advent candles and readings.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders leading us in the responsive reading. Whoa! Yes, **leading**, with a maturity and apparent comfort up front of a full congregation. Voices still youthful, but smoothly, confidently reading, without fear of the mic. When did they become so grown up? What a true blessing to see them not just growing, but growing in the church. Everyone seems always to enjoy the adorable little ones. During Sunday School they'd admitted to their teacher about being "a little bit scared." But of course they're scared; they're 5 years old and in front of a crowd of people and supposed to DO STUFF and SING! And teacher had requested that they "just do your best." Deep breath; and let it out. A CD player can "skip" just like a scratched record can!?



Huh! Mechanical failure brought forth some unified laughter, easing the tension for the kids, perhaps, and a minor miracle somehow 'fixed' the CD. Christmas pageant in miniature – cows, ducks, a celebrating Mary and Joseph, amazed shepherds running to the stable, kings presenting their gifts to the baby – it was all in there and the kids were all "into" it. Their best? They knocked it out of the ball field! Oh, and their teacher had requested that the congregation listen to the singing with their hearts, not only their ears. .... They Sang! THEY SANG OUT! AND THEY DID ACTIONS AS THEY SANG, TOO! Smiles spread from the congregation all the way around the church, including the "little bit scared" singers. When did THEY become so grown up?

We knew, of course, that Cindy would deliver a poignant message; but on a day's notice? Exploring "mercy," complete with amusing anecdotes from her own life, delving into its full meaning, her message touched the tender spots in us (in me). The homeless 'panhandler,' viewed with merciful eyes, is God's precious child, too. Les Misérables is a timeless classic, but how many times have I been truly, truly selflessly merciful? Breathe in; breathe out.... listen with my heart to what God's asking of me, helping me better understand the endless depth of God's mercy toward human, fallible, selfish me. Through Cindy, God delivered one heck of a sermon.

And then complete the whole experience with an unhurried time of fellowshiping with each other over cookies and punch. Such a full and filling service in spite of (or richer because of?) all the glitches. It was a blessing. Every person, from the back pew to the front of the altar played a valuable part in the service. Whether or not you had a "part" per se, every one of us was necessary to make that worship service what it was. In all its imperfections, it was perfect. I commented to a friend, "How can such a tiny little church in the middle of the cornfields contain so **much**?" Later, as I thought of the cramped stable crowded with critters – and shepherds – I felt reassured thinking, "if the divine Spirit can be present there [crowded, "fragrant" stable], certainly it will be present here in this uplifted group of people now heading out our new doors and into our everyday lives; that Spirit supporting us as we move with mercy amongst our fellow man." I'll try to do my best. Knock it out of the ball field? I'll try to do my best. I believe there's a congregation from BGUMC trying just as hard.



Inhale; exhale. God's grace. - - - Patti Ellingson



## Christmas Pictures 2021



Photos 1-4:  
Decorating for  
Christmas

Photo 5:  
Sunday School  
Christmas  
Involvement

Photos 6-8:  
Christmas Eve  
Stories at the  
Stable







The sanctuary looks beautiful thanks to the many people who donated poinsettias in memory or in honor of special people in their lives. Thank you to all who helped make this happen. Below are the donors and those they honored.

***Dave & Sheryl Brisel***

***In Memory of Charlie & Berniece Brisel***

***In Memory of John & Margaret Schmidt***

***In Memory of Betty Brisel Koppin***

***Chuck & Linda Danks***

***In Memory of Family Members***

***Hjordi Churchill***

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

***Jerry & Patti Ellingson***

***In Honor of church family fellowshiping together again***

***Don and Char Frankenberry***

***In Memory of Family***

***Brian & Carolyn Kanne***

***In Memory of Grandparents***

***LeAnn Kanne***

***In Memory of Harold Kanne***

***Faye Kanne***

***In Memory of Harold Kanne***

***Carol Karsten***

***In Memory of Don Karsten***

***In Memory of Cindy Karsten***

***In Memory of Kenny Karsten***

***Kathy King***

***In Memory of Jim King***

***In Memory of Kathy's brothers***

***Bonnie Lima***

***In Memory of Mario Lima***

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

***In Honor and Recognition of all the BGUMC members for their dedication and hard work to accomplish the beautiful addition to their unique two steeple church.***

***Keith Shelley McColley***

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

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

***Brad & Cindy Saufferer***

***In Memory of Dan & Danny Cartmill***

***In Memory of Eleanor & Harold Saufferer***

***Jim & Chery Southworth***

***In Memory of Roger & Glorene Southworth***

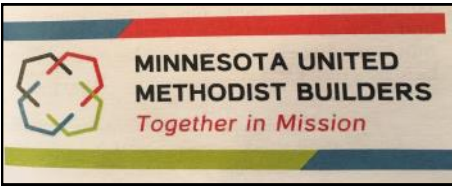
***In Memory of LaVern & Vida Wendt***

***Brad & Tracie Spinler & Family***

***In Memory of Harold & Eleanor Saufferer***

***In Memory of Marissa Spinler***

***In Memory of Harold & Leona Minske***



## Update RE BGUMC as Recipient of MN United Methodist Builders “Fall 2021 Call”

Right before Christmas, we received an exciting update from the MN United Methodist Builders group: They have received just over \$5,200 so far for the Blooming Grove UMC “Fall 2021 Builders Call”! They will do more promoting after the first of the year and continue to take in donations for our BGUMC South Addition Project from their supporters until March 30<sup>th</sup>.

BGUMC is grateful to have been selected as a recipient of this organization’s mission giving. MN UM Builders is a group of hundreds of individuals and churches throughout Minnesota who join together each year to assist churches in their building projects. Their mission is to help MN UMCs connect with their community and welcome new people. Their goal: to assist churches in need of financial support for their building, remodel, or expansion projects. By providing support for the building projects of churches, it allows the churches to grow current ministries or build new ministries to made disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Each year, the MN UMC Builders chooses to support the building projects of two churches across Minnesota - one in the Fall and one in the Spring. The “Fall 2021 Call”, for which we’ve been chosen, runs for 6 months, from October through March, during which time the individuals/churches in this group learn of our story, and our building project, and make donations directly to the MN UM Builders. At the end of the “Call” (early April) BGUMC will receive a check for the total amount donated. Past “Call Recipients” have received anywhere from \$4,000 to \$7,000 in donations at the end of the 6-month time-frame.

From October through March, the MN UM Builders group has the opportunity to learn more about BGUMC through their “Fall 2021 Call” brochure, our Facebook page, our website, our newsletter, and perhaps even by joining us during Sunday morning worship. Their members are invited to donate as their hearts are called to do so.

Upon the conclusion of the “Fall 2021 Call”, we at BGUMC are invited to become part of the MN UM Builders group, in the timeframe that we are able, to help other churches in the future.

Copies of the MN UMC Builders brochure, “Fall 2021 Call - Blooming Grove United Methodist”, are available on the table in the south bell tower - so that we can learn more of the work that they do. Thank you to MN UMC Builders for their support!



**DELORES "DEE" STENGER BRUCE**, age 85, of Janesville died on Friday afternoon, December 10, 2021, at Whispering Creek in Janesville. Born on February 14, 1936, in Watkins, Minnesota. She was the 10th of 15 children born to Peter and Margaret (Borman) Stenger. Dee graduated from 8th grade at District 44 before becoming the caregiver of her father, two brothers and baby sister following her mother's death in 1946.

Dee was married to Kenneth Radunz on May 8, 1954, together they had 6 children and later divorced in 1962. On October 10, 1969, she married Myron "Sam" Willard, he died in July of 1972. On November 30, 1979, she married Joseph Bruce and together they shared 20 years of marriage before he passed away on May 6, 2000.

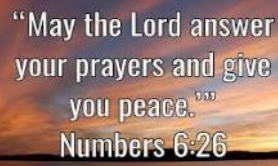
Dee enjoyed spending time with her family, gardening, sewing and friends. She had several jobs over the years. On May 3, 1973, she began working for E.F. Johnson Co. in Waseca where she worked for 25 years, retiring in August of 1998. On November 19, 1998, Dee took a part time job at Janesville City Hall as the Utility Billing Clerk and retired on February 13, 2015, at the age of 79. She was a member of St. Ann Catholic Church in Janesville.

Dee is survived by her daughters: **Katherine (Jerry) King** and Kari (Darrell) Grisim; six grandsons: Patrick Radunz, Clint (Julie) King, Jeremy (Tiffany Dawson) King, Aaron (Trista) King, Kenny (Holly) Grisim, and Joshua (Angela) Radunz; three granddaughters: Kellie Jo (Jared) Anderson, Kristal (Andrew) Edwards, and Julie Radunz; 22 great grandchildren; and two great-great grandchildren; daughter-in-law: Shawna Thielbar; brother, Richard (Arliiss) Stenger; sister, Rosemary Neseth; 56 nieces and nephews and their families.

Preceded in death by her parents; brother, Francis "Bud", Edward, Leo, Eugene, Fred, Philip, John and a brother in infancy; sisters: Rosella, Genevieve, and Margaret; six sisters-in-law; three husbands; two nieces; one nephew; four sons: Kenneth, Kelly, Kimmy & Kevin.



Please pray for the following persons and situations shared publicly within our community of BGUMC



"May the Lord answer your prayers and give you peace."  
Numbers 6:26

**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.*

- Prayers of thanks for the safety of Mikayla Spinler's room-mate Ashley's family and their ranch in Denton, Montana, that was spared from the devastating wild fires in the area. Continued prayers for all whose homes, ranches, and livestock were destroyed.
- Char, as she continues her recovery work from knee replacement surgery in December.
- Continued prayers for Kelli Prchal's husband Joe's uncle, "Little Joe" - who was diagnosed with leukemia in November and began chemotherapy in December. He was hospitalized several times in December, and is now back home again.
- Pastor Kathy's youngest son, and his little boy, as they continue in their recovery from COVID. Both are improving and are able to be at home.
- Marlis Mahler's friend's new granddaughter, Lily, born December 13<sup>th</sup>. Lily has not been eating well, is losing weight, and was readmitted to the hospital just before Christmas.
- Elizabeth, daughter of Chuck and Linda Danks, who was hospitalized the last week of December, as she is diagnosed with, and begins treatment for, health concerns.
- The extended Montana family of a friend of Hjordi Churchill and Judy Mahler, the majority of whom were vaccinated, who have come down with COVID. Please pray for recovery for those who have it, and for safety for those who do not yet have it - especially those with highly compromised immune systems due to cancer treatments and those with health conditions that make them more vulnerable.
- Marge, Cindy Saufferer's mom in Kansas, who faces ongoing and increasingly worrisome health concerns. Also pray for Cindy, and for Cindy's sister, Patti, as they travel this journey with their mom.
- Little Ethan, a young child in the Waterville and Janesville area, whose cancer returned with a vengeance this fall, claiming victory over any kind of treatment possibility. Please pray for he and his family and they travel this overwhelming

journey together.

- The family of John Peterson, a member of Janesville UMC, who passed away on Christmas Eve from complications of Parkinson's Disease.
- 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.
- Prayers of joy and celebration for Deanna Kanne, selected to perform as part of the Mass Choir in the Disney World EPCOT International Festival of the Holidays - Candlelight Processional. Each night of this event, the Christmas story is re-told of a Savior born in Bethlehem - with songs of hope and joy woven throughout - performed by the orchestra and massed choir.
- 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 Floor is Done

When people walk into the addition and see the floor, I hear a lot of comments. The comments include that's beautiful, really sharp, looks perfect, accents the rest of the addition beautifully, and how much did that cost. The answer to the cost question is, "I don't know, it was donated".

Kelli Prchal volunteered to do the project and followed through beautifully. Kelli has a knack for decorating, the lady has a chandelier in her chicken coop. When she heard that we were planning to stain the concrete in the addition she said, "I can do that" and sent a picture of some concrete she had stained. It looked great and we were convinced.

The contractor owed a floor cleaning after some paint issues. When that was completed, Kelli came in and started rolling. My wife Cindy put on one coat of sealer when Kelli couldn't make it because of snow, Kelli came a few days later and finished staining and sealing and the result was perfect.

Once again, our congregation is full of talented people who are not afraid of hard work. We are truly blessed. Stop by and take a look and if Kelli is there, tell her job well done. ....Brad Saufferer

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

January 2022

**The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

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Check us out on Facebook!

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Happy and Blessed New Year



May the joy and  
peace of Christmas  
be with you all  
through the  
New Year.

Wishing you a season  
of blessings from  
heaven above.