



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE VISITOR

Volume 90, Issue 10

THE TWO STEEPLED CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

October 2025

Mission Team News & Invitations!

Winter Clothing Drive for Emma Norton Services of St. Paul September 14th – October 5th

Emma Norton Services is gathering donations for their annual coat/winter gear drive! ***They are seeking donations of the following, all of which need to be NEW or like-new:***

- Winter coats in both men and women's styles in all ADULT sizes
- Kids' snowpants
- Kids' and adult sizes of warm socks, winter hats, gloves/mittens, and snow boots.

If you wish to donate any of these items, please drop them off at the table at the back of the sanctuary (under the bulletin board) by Sunday, October 5th. Note: drop-off boxes will also be available at the greeter tables at the Sunday, October 5th worship service at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm!

Emma Norton Services is a United Methodist related trauma-informed organization that promotes healing and recovery by connecting people to transformational housing, growth, and possibility.

Parish Field Trip to Restoring Waters Emma Norton Services of St. Paul Saturday, October 11th at 10:00 A.M. Meet at BGUMC at 8:30 A.M. to Carpool

By Wednesday, October 8th, please contact Judy Mahler (507-456-3937 or hbjm@charter.net) to let us know of your interest in joining this field trip and to help us make carpool plans. We will be taking the items gathered during our Prairie Lakes Parish Emma Norton Winter Clothing Drive and will also have the opportunity to tour the new Restoring Waters facility.

Restoring Waters opened in May of 2024, after 16 months of construction. It provides Trauma Informed Transformational Housing, Care, & Healing to 60+ individuals and small families. Its design and services are unique nationally, and provide amazing empowerment opportunities for all who enter its doors.



Feed My Starving Children Food Pack Thursday, November 6th 5:30 – 7:30 P.M.

At Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna
For ages 3rd Grade to 100+ years old

Sign up from September 14th – October 5th

Come and be part of a BGUMC Team that works together in the high-energy setting of the annual Owatonna Area Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Food Pack on November 6th! If you wish to volunteer, please sign up at the table at the back of the sanctuary (under the bulletin board) between the Sundays of September 14th – October 5th. Because volunteer spots fill up super-fast, we want to be ready to enter our team as soon as registrations open in early October. More details will be provided as we learn more from the event organizers.

At this event, kids and adults of all ages work together to hand-pack **nutritious Manna-Pack[®] Rice meals** specifically designed to assist in reversing and preventing undernutrition, with each meal costing less than 30 cents. Note: There are also “seated volunteer” positions available – placing labels on rice bags waiting to be packed.

FMSC, a Christian nonprofit organization, partners with organizations around the world to reach undernourished children. They donate meals, free of cost, to an exceptional network of schools, orphanages, medical clinics, and feeding programs in 70 countries around the world – helping to deliver hope, and break the cycle of poverty. Eating just one of these meals a day can save a child's life.



October 2025

Blooming Grove
Morning Worship...8:15 am

Janesville
Morning Worship.....10:45 am

Waterville Evangelical
Morning Worship...9:30 am

			1 1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ 7 pm Pop-up Choir practice at BG	2 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	3	4 4:30-6:30 pm WV Chichen & Biscuit Dinner
				Pastor Kathy on Vacation thru October 4th		
5 10:30 am Communion Worship Ser- vice at Pizza Farm	6	7	8 11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Jonnie Beans in Waseca 1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ	9 9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	10	11 Restoring Wa- ters Field Trip Meet at 8:30 at BG to carpool
					Pastor's Day Off	
12 10:30 am WV Trustee's meeting	13 6 pm WV Ad Council Meeting 	14 4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	15 1 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ 7 pm BG Ad Board	16 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	17	18
					Pastor's Day Off	
19	20	21	22 1 pm WV Women's Jail Ministry/RCJ 7 pm BG Education Team Meeting	23 9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave 7 pm WV Men's Jail Ministry/RCJ	24	25 10 am to noon Free Diaper Giveaway at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
26 3:30 pm Con- firmation at Mitchell's	27	28	29	30	31	
					Parament Color The color for October is Green	

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday Worship 8:15 a.m.
Sunday School 9:15 a.m. (1st & 3rd Sunday)

1	Wed	7:00 pm	Pop-up Choir practice at BG
4	Sat	4:30-6:30	Chicken & Biscuit Dinner at WV
5	Sun	10:30 am	Communion service at Pizza Farm
8	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Jonnie Beans
9	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
11	Sat	10:00 am	Restoring Waters Field Trip Meet at 8:30 am at BG to carpool
15	Wed	7:00 pm	BG Ad Council
22	Wed	7:00 pm	Education Team Meeting
23	Thur	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
26	Sun	3:30 pm	Confirmation at Mitchell's

**Pastor Kathy is on vacation
thru October 4th.**

WV EUMC Annual Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

Please join Waterville EUMC on Saturday, October 5th from 4:30-6:30 pm for a wonderful meal of Chicken and Gravy, Homemade Biscuits, Corn, Coleslaw, and some amazing desserts! All for a free-will offering. You can dine in or take out!



Happy Birthday

2	Louise Christenson	9	Karen LaFond
3	Elenora Christesen	12	Chery Southworth
4	Andrew Engebretson	17	Phyllis Giebner
6	Tyler Jesse	19	George Sharp
6	Thomas Prchal	20	Jerry King
		23	Thomas DeLeon
		26	Bruce Sauferer



Welcome Little One!

Welcome to Lucas Lee Spinler, born August 31st to Alex and Lacey Spinler! Lucas joins his big brother Bowen, big sister Andi, and all of their beloved four-legged friends. Proud BGUMC grandparents are Brad and Tracie Spinler.

Treasurer's Report

September 2025



General Budget Income \$ 1,680.00
Total Income 1,680.00

Expenses

Pastor's Salary	2,268.75
Excel Energy	64.31
Quality Lawn and Snow	630.00
Century Link	57.74
State of Minnesota	145.00
Dahle Enterprises	322.50

Total Paid Out \$ 3,488.30

(Net Income: — \$1,808.30)

Building Addition

Income
 Restoration \$ 1,857.00

Total Income \$ 1,857.00

Expenses

Loan Payment	\$ 5,505.13
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Total Paid Out \$ 5,505.13

(Net Income: — \$3,648.13)

Exciting News!

Matching Gift Funds for our South Addition Accessibility Loan



One of the loans for our South Addition Accessibility Project is coming due in October. An anonymous donor has offered to match all funds donated toward the South Addition Building Fund, up to \$5,000, during September (possibly extended into October)!

If you wish to contribute toward this great matching fund opportunity, please note on your check or on your offering envelope that your gift is for the South Addition Building Fund. It would be great to get the balance on this loan paid down! Thank you!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 9 Callie & Marcus DeLeon
- 10 Deecy & Bob Jesse
- 19 Katie & Brian Martin





Faith



*The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"
Luke 17: 5 NIV*

As the previous eight months did, September rushed by in a whirlwind of back-to-school, back to structure and now—October greets us, and this pastor is back to realizing that Advent is just around the corner.

Our Discipleship Ministries Worship planners are focusing on “Choosing Faith” for this month of October. I think many of us are like the apostles who begged Jesus to “Increase our faith!” We seem to be looking for fulfillment in many places. For those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ, isn’t a deeper faith the very thing that we are looking for—yearning for in our life journeys. At what point do we realize is that time passes too fast to focus on calendar timelines? Are we concerned about the timeline of our faith? Is faith that something we expect to just show up when we need it or is it that faith is a continuous search for a deeper relationship with our Triune God? Let our prayer in these days be, “please Lord, increase our faith!”

(While I am currently on vacation) I am looking forward to our parish celebration of World Communion at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm on October 5th. Emily and Bill provide us with a beautiful place to remind us that we United Methodists celebrate our connection to the faith community as we share in Holy Communion with Christians around the world. Last year was our first year to gather inside due to a very windy day but our worship was just as joyful as past services under the beautiful blue sky of the grove. If you haven’t taken part in previous World Communion services at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, I’m hoping you will take part this year. It is our last joint parish service of this year and a wonderful reminder of the community friendships our parish has nurtured.

In this month of October, we celebrate Laity Sunday (October 19th). This pastor celebrates each one of you and the work you do for your church, for your community, and for the One who granted your gifts and talents. Thank you!

May we each continue to journey in faith as we extend the love of God with justice and equity!

In His Love,

Pastor Kathy, Jerry & Eddie

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.



- Jeff, husband of Deb Miller's friend in St Louis. Jeff is on the kidney transplant list and has been hospitalized with medical concerns.
- All that is taking place in the Middle East.
- Elana, daughter of Chuck and Linda Danks, as she works with doctors regarding medical concerns.
- The grandmother of Bobbi Mathern as she transitions to nursing home care.
- The uncle of Bobbi Mathern, who is undergoing

chemotherapy treatment for cancer.

- Prayers of thanks for Carol Karsten's son Wally who received a "good news" 6 month check-up!
- The father of a friend of Marlis Mahler whose blood work has come back with unusual results and who will undergo additional testing.
- All in our midst whose care, safety net, and/or jobs are being compromised due to changes in federal funding.
- For our world, and our world leaders, that ways may be found to bring peace.
- Hold in our hearts and prayers all of the victims and families impacted by the mass shootings over the weekend of September 27th.
- 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.



A BGUMC Celebration of Tractors!

By Judy Mahler

In our rural community, tractors are an integral part of our rich heritage, representing ingenuity, tenacity, hard work, hope, optimism in the face of all odds, and community. What better way to celebrate them, and all who have farmed with them over the years, than with a farm stock tractor pull at BGUMC!

Our "pulling afternoon" on Saturday, September 6th included 18 drivers hailing from 8 different towns, 24 tractors comprised of 6 different tractor makes, 12 pulling classes, and 39 individual hooks.

The most famous participant: Delilah, the pulling sled!

Onlookers gathered on the church lawn to watch, and eat lunch, under alternating brilliant blue skies, and cloud cover, with the big downpour waiting to let loose until the last serving table was being put away.

It was a great time of being together in community, and in the process, raising \$747 to go toward our BGUMC Accessibility Project.

It takes a village to coordinate a tractor pull! A huge thank you goes to all involved, including the people coordinating the weigh-ins, the person running Delilah – the pull sled, those handling the "hooks", flaggers, announcers, statisticians, and the persons providing and serving lunch.



As each tractor made its run that day, in your mind's eye, couldn't you just hear – and see - the Farmall baling hay in 1960 on a hot July afternoon, or the John Deere coming down the road in the fall of 1970 to help a neighbor with silo filling, or the guys making the last run with a 2-row corn picker with lights on in the darkness of October, or the men making their final attempt to finish plowing after the evening milking was done in the cold of November? We treasure the tractors, and those who ran them!



September 6th, a Day of Infinite Fun

(By Brad Saufferer)

See what I did there? Not a day of infamy, but infinite fun. You try writing a new story title every year. But that aside, it was a great day at the church. This year we had forty-nine walkers and runners, four of them virtually. The Owatonna's boys cross country team was once again there leading the way. We had runners and walkers in almost all age groups. If we could get Carol Karsten and Dave Brisel to participate, that would really help round out the age groups. Charlie, last year's foreign exchange student returned to run. She asked me to tell Matt Mullenbach, who was standing by with the Medford Fire Department's first responder truck, to be ready when she crossed the finish line because her running shoes would be on fire. Yah, that didn't happen.



The smoked rib contest this year was intense. Garry from the Waseca food shelf was back as the returning champion. Stang Good Meats was coming in after two consecutive wins at the Dam Days rib contest in Morristown. I don't want to say anything, but they looked overconfident. The third team, Trojan Ribs, was son-in-law Gil and daughter Beth. After hours of slow cooking and watering mouths, 12:00 noon came around. The tension was high, like the old western's on TV where the gunfight was on the main street at noon. After the donations were counted, it was Trojan Meats that was declared the winner. Son-in-law Gil assured me that he will not gloat at family functions. Gil lies.



We made well over two thousand dollars for the food shelves this year. I would give you an exact number, but I can't find the slip of paper with the number on it in the mess of paper on my desk. It is nice we made a good amount of money for the food shelves, but I think more importantly is that the congregation once again came together and made it happen.

Volunteers made treats for sale, manned the registration table, manned the desert table, and took care of the hundred little things that need to get done. We have a caring, loving and hard-working congregation. Makes you proud.

So, next year come out and run, walk or smoke some ribs. Meet the cross country team, a finer group of young men you'll never find. Watch Michael Kanne give his dad the Gopher football score while he's counting money and he has to start all over again. Ahh, good times.



2025/2026 Programs/Events for BGUMC Children & Youth

The BGUMC Education Team invites our children/youth to be part of our 2025-2026 Programs and Events that will take place in the next 12 months! Lots of opportunities are in the works, including the following:

- Sunday School
- October 5th Worship at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm
- November 6th Feed My Starving Children Food Pack in Owatonna
- Winter laser tag and bowling extravaganza at Spare Time in Owatonna
- Winter movies, popcorn, pizza, and root beer at church
- Summer Day Camp
- Fall Run 4 the Loaves and Tractor Pull
- Watch our newsletter and Sunday Worship Bulletins for information about each.

In order to best provide for the safety and well-being of the children/youth participating in these events throughout the next 12 months, **we request that parents complete a Parental Consent & Medical Authorization form for each minor child/youth (under the age of 18) in their family.**

Forms have been mailed to each family, and can also be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Invitation to Sunday Morning Coffee Talk: Grade 8 to Age 100+



Grab a cup of coffee and join us for **Coffee Talk**—a relaxed time of conversation, scripture, and community. No prep needed, just come as you are, and when you can, and share in the discussion.

- **When:** Starting Sunday, October 19th at 9:15 A.M. We will follow the Sunday School schedule of meeting 1st and 3rd Sundays. See next page.
- **Where:** The Fireside Room. We'd love to see you there!

Sunday School Schedule Through December



We had a great Sunday School kick-off on September 21st, and invite your children to continue to be part of our Sunday School community for the rest of the school year! Most generally, we meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Here is our schedule through December:

- 10/05/2025: No Sunday School.
Join us for 10:30 A.M. Worship at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. Children are absolutely welcomed! During worship, children may roam the pasture with their parents - or play quiet games with their parents, visit the animals, and enjoy "Bubbles" as a key part of the Children's Sermon.
- 10/19/2025: 9:15 – 10:00
- 11/02/2025: 9:15 – 10:00
- 11/16/2025: 9:15 – 10:00
- 12/07/2025: 9:45 – 10:30
Includes 1st rehearsal for Christmas Program. Note that our Winter/Spring Schedule begins this day with Sunday School from 9:45 – 10:30 A.M. and Worship from 10:45 – 11:30 A.M.
- 12/14/2025: 9:45 – 10:30
Includes final rehearsal for Christmas Program, which will be presented during 10:45 morning worship.
- 12/21/2025: 9:45 – 10:30
- 12/28/2025 & 01/04/2026:
No Sunday School. Christmas and New Year's Break.

Thanks again to our 2025/2026 Sunday School Teachers!

- Preschool – K: Kristin Krell and Emily Church
- Grades 1-4): Hjordi Churchill
- Grades 5-7: Judy Mahler and Val Mullenbach
- Substitute Teachers: Marlis Mahler, Bobbi Mathern, Kelli & Ila Prchal





Sunday, October 5th, 2025

***Community Worship Service & Pizza Lunch
All Outdoors at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm***

***Sponsored by the Churches of the
Prairie Lakes Parish
(Blooming Grove, Janesville, and Waterville
Evangelical United Methodist Churches)***



41142 160th Street, Waseca
(715) 523-0857
pleasantgrovepizzafarm.com

Our Time Together at the Pizza Farm

9:45: Pop-up Choir Rehearsal at Pizza Farm Stage

10:00: Gather, settle in, and place pizza orders

- ♦ Stop by the welcome tables by the Pizza Farm Barn where volunteers from our congregations will:
 - ◊ Provide bulletins with shared liturgy and congregational hymns.
 - ◊ Provide an offering container where you may drop your offering gifts for your preferred church.
- ♦ Place your pizza order in the Barn and set up your family's seating in the worship area (east of the Barn).

10:30: Morning Worship, led by Pastor Kathy King of the Prairie Lakes Parish

11:30 - 1:00: Pizza Lunch on the Grounds

Our Music Leaders for Worship at the Pizza Farm are Kristin Ziemke (one of the worship musicians for Janesville UMC), Judy Mahler (one of the worship musicians at Blooming Grove UMC), and our multi-church Pop-up Choir.

At our Pizza Farm Worship Service, we will join congregations around the globe in celebrating World Communion Sunday - which always takes place on the first Sunday in October. This special day is a time for remembering that around the world—in different languages, with different traditions and customs, and in various forms of liturgy—the Lord's Supper is celebrated throughout Christendom. Join us for this joyous and meaningful partaking in Jesus' sacred meal with his friends and a celebration of our Christian brothers and sisters from around the world.

Planning Ahead - Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Information

(Because our Prairie Lakes Parish has made a group reservation, individual reservations are not needed.)

Information from the Pizza Farm's Facebook page/website:

- ♦ Bring your own seating and a portable table (if desired).
- ♦ If you plan to stay for pizza lunch, pack a cooler with items such as the following: beverages, any other food you wish to enjoy with your pizza, plates, cups, utensils, napkins, and a trash bag to pack out your garbage when you leave.
- ♦ A hand washing station is provided. Although hand sanitizer will be provided at the ordering stations, please also bring your own.
- ♦ No pets allowed.
- ♦ 9 main pizzas and a weekly feature are offered. Check out their website for the detailed menu at pleasantgrovepizzafarm.com). Pizza prices range from \$23-\$27. They take credit cards and cash. One pizza feeds about 2-3 people as they are 14" hand rolled. They do not take pre-orders over the phone.

Directions to Pizza Farm from Blooming Grove UMC:

**Go south on 180th Street for approximately .2 miles. Turn right onto 430th Ave/County Hwy 10, travel 2.01 miles. Turn left onto 160th Street and travel 1.8 miles. Pleasant Grove is on the left.
If you have any questions, call (507) 456-3937.**



Historian's Note:

On any given Sunday or religious holiday, someone driving past churches big or small may hear the beautiful and sometimes somber tones of the church bell. Well, here at Blooming Grove, we're no different. Those who were in church on Sunday September 7, 2025, may have seen a rare sight. For about a half hour after church was over, the bell was visible to those who stood in the bell tower. It turns out Matt Mullenbach was oiling the bell, which is something I and many others have never really thought about. While he was in the tower, he was kind enough to take some pictures, some of which I have included here. This brings me to my next thought: how long has that bell been in the tower and what happened to the bell which was in the Bethel tower?



Weirdly enough, only a few months ago, my dad, Brian Kanne, rediscovered an envelope that had been sent to him from an extended family member back in 2015. This envelope contained the original receipt, found in a crack in the back of Ferdinand Kanne's desk, of the Immanuel bell from June 9, 1900. The receipt reads:

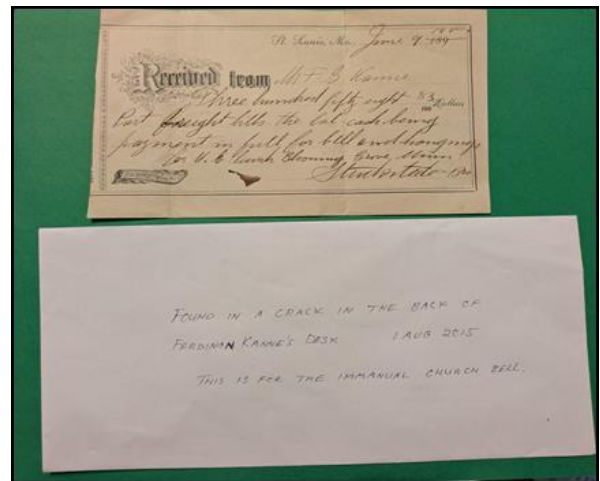
St. Louis Mo., June 9 1900
Received from Mr. F.G. Kanne
Three hundred fifty-eight 83/100 Dollars
Part freight bills the bal. cash being
payment in full for the bell and hanging
for M.E. Church Blooming Grove Minn
Stuckstede & Bro

*Fun fact: \$358.83 is approximately \$13,840 in 2025
(adjusted for inflation)

As for the bell that resided in the Bethel Tower; this was written in the July 1991 Visitor for the 40th anniversary of the 1951 merger: "The bell from Bethel was sold to Dr. Edwin A. Schwendemann from Atlantic, Iowa to be used in a chime set." We don't actively know what happened to this "chime set," or any bells from it, after his death in 1973; but an assumption can be made that it is still in Iowa.

So next time you hear the bell chime on Sunday morning, you can now appreciate the beautiful, tonal sounds of the bell residing in Immanuel tower.

~Michael Kanne- BG Historian



*The receipt will be framed and hung in the Immanuel tower for all to appreciate.

Photo Credits to Matt Mullenbach and Michael Kanne, with special thanks to Gabe Mullenbach.

Thanks to Brian Kanne for the receipt and for hanging it in the bell tower.

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

October 2025

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: 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

Join Us

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



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

Cindy Saufferer, Writer

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Welcoming Gate

Our antique cemetery gate that
rests along the SE corner of our
church burst forth with fall colors
the week of September 22nd,
thanks to the creative work of
Linda Kosel and Jenny Jenkins!
Their time, energy, and care cre-
ate an amazing sign of welcome,
life, and love for all who pass
by—a symbol of all that takes
place inside our doors—and the
love of God that we carry into the
world.