



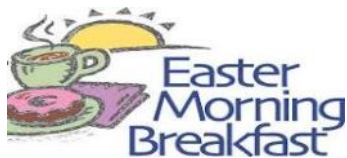
BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE VISITOR

Volume 90, Issue 4

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

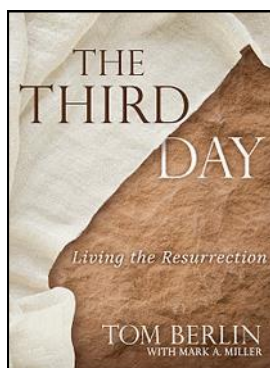
April 2025



## Easter Breakfast Following Service

A sign-up sheet for the Easter Breakfast will be available at church. We will be having crockpot egg bake, crockpot French toast bake, fruit, and pastries. Recipes for the crockpot dishes are available if you need a copy. If you miss the sign-up sheet at church or have any questions, you can contact Carolyn Kanne to sign up to donate. Freewill donations at the breakfast will go to the BG United Women in Faith to be used for our copies of the Upper Room, mission support, etc.

## Prairie Lakes Parish Lenten Study The Third Day: Living the Resurrection



Come join our Parish Lenten Study, based on the 2025 MN UMC Conference Lenten Study Book "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection".

Pastor Kathy and Cindy Saufferer will lead these times of conversation and reflection at 7:00 P.M. on the Wednesday evenings listed below. Please

contact either of them to request a book. (You don't have to read the book to join in on the conversation.)

- April 2<sup>nd</sup> at Janesville UMC
- April 9<sup>th</sup> at Waterville EUMC

In his book, author Tom Berlin (United Methodist minister and bishop) uses his gifts of storytelling and understanding the Scriptures to connect the reader to the experiences of several individuals around Jesus in his final days, focusing on new life and redemption rather than loss. Join Peter, Mary Magdalene, Thomas, and the disciples at Emmaus, as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. See how the resurrection transforms their lives – and how it can transform ours!



## Thank You

Thanks to everyone that pitched in to make the annual fish fry a big success. It is great to see all working together. BGUM should be proud as we showcased our vibrant congregation to friends and community. Thanks again, Brad Spinler

## A Little Help, Please (to gather info about our graduates)



Here we go again... as the end of another school year rapidly approaches, we want to ensure none of our graduates get overlooked. If you have a ***family member who is graduating from High School, Junior College or College, a Trade School or any upper-level educational/vocational training***, please contact Patti Ellingson with this information. Even if they're in another town – or another state – they're part of our church family and we want to celebrate their hard-earned accomplishment. That's something worth celebrating. You can reach Patti by phone or text at (507) 339-2477, or by email @ [peppermint\\_e@hotmail.com](mailto:peppermint_e@hotmail.com). If possible, include a **photo of the grad** please. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

## Invitation To The Final Spaghetti Dinner








The final spaghetti supper for the season will be held on April 16th from 5-6:30 pm at the Waterville EUMC. We would love to have you join us again for spaghetti, bread sticks, salad and dessert for a free-will offering. We appreciate your support in the last months. Hope to see you soon!

April 2025

**Blooming Grove**  
**Morning Worship.10:45 am**  
**Sunday School...9:45 am \*\***

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

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

		1	2	3	4	5
<b>Parament Colors</b>  <b>April 6        Purple</b> <b>April 13      Purple</b> <b>April 20      White/Gold</b> <b>April 27      White/Gold</b>		7 pm Worship Team meeting in WV  	6-8 pm Jesus Food Faribault Mall 1 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ 7 pm Lenten Study at JV 6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV	7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail		
					Pastor's Day Off	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:45 am BG choir rehearsal		4-6 pm Free Diaper Give- away at WV	11:30 am Prayer Brunch at Spare Time Entertainment 1 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ 7 pm Lenten Study at WV 6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV	9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave 7 pm BG Ad Board 7 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ		Noon—Easter Egg Hunt at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:45 am BG choir rehearsal  	6 pm Ad Council at WV		1 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ 5-6:30 pm Spaghetti Supper at WV  6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV	7 pm Services at Janesville  	7 pm Services at WV  	
					Pastor's Day Off	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Easter Services</b> 7:30 am at BG UMC 9:00 am at Waterville EUMC 10:30 am at Janesville UMC			1 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ  6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV	9:30 am Bible Study at Cool Wave  7 pm WV Jail Ministry/Rice County Jail		10 am to noon Free Diaper Giveaway at WV
					Pastor's Day Off	
27	28	29	30			
2 pm Confir- mation at El Molino's in WV			1 pm WV Jail Ministry/RCJ  6-7 pm Acts 29 Jr. at WV			

**\*\* Sunday School will be held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at Blooming Grove.**

## MARCH CALENDAR

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

1	Tues	7:00 pm	Worship Team meeting
2	Wed	6:00 pm	Jesus Food at Faribault Mall
2	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Study at JV
6	Sun	9:45 am	BG Choir rehearsal
9	Wed	11:30 am	Prayer Brunch at Spare Time
9	Wed	7:00 pm	Lenten Study at WV
<b>10</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>BG Ad Council</b>
13	Sun	9:45 am	BG Choir rehearsal
16	Wed	5-6:30 pm	Spaghetti Supper at WV
17	Thurs	7:00 pm	Service at JV UMC
18	Fri	7:00 pm	Service at WV EUMC
20	Sun	7:30 am	Service at BG (breakfast to follow)
20	Sun	9:00 am	Service at WV UMC
20	Sun	10:30 am	Service at JV UMC
24	Thurs	9:30 am	Bible Study at Cool Wave
27	Sun	2:00 pm	Confirmation at El Molino's WV

### Change in Date for April Council Meeting

Our April BGUMC Council meeting has been changed to Thursday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. in order to accommodate our Prairie Lakes Parish Lenten Wednesday Evening Book Study.

### Easter Egg Hunt



Waterville EUMC, under the direction of Andi Potter, is holding an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday, April 12th at noon. It is geared for ages 1-12. There is no entry fee and there will be lots of eggs, prizes, juice, snacks and even an appearance of the Easter Bunny! Gather the young ones and join us for a fun event.

### Happy Anniversary

- 4 Thomas & Cheryl Wacek
- 5 Matt & Val Mullenbach
- 10 Todd & Katie Adamek
- 15 Ken & Tena Harren



- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 4 LeAnn Kanne     | 9 Stephanie Fyvie   |
| 5 Jackie Mathern  | 9 Jewelle Nagel     |
| 7 Amy Saufferer   | 10 Dale Danks       |
| 7 Cindy Saufferer | 11 Evelyn Church    |
| 8 Nicole Wacek    | 13 Jackson Erickson |
|                   | 14 Brad Saufferer   |
|                   | 22 Emily Church     |
|                   | 26 Olivia Full      |
|                   | 30 Jan Redman       |

## Treasurer's Report

March 1—March 23, 2025



<b>General Budget Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,985.00</b>
UMCOR	441.50
Men's Breakfast	10.00
Visitor	24.00
Easter Flowers	320.95
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>3,781.45</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Pastor's Salary	2,268.75
Excel Energy	113.28
Century Link	57.77
Church Mutual Insurance	34.00
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 2,473.80</b>
(Net Income: +	\$1,37.65)

### Building Addition

<b>Income</b>	
Restoration	\$ 3,840.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 3,840.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Loan Payment	\$ 5,505.13
<b>Total Paid Out</b>	<b>\$ 5,505.13</b>
(Net Income: —	\$1,665.13)

### Jesus Food

The WEM Acts 29 group, and their guests are scheduled to head to Faribault on April 2nd to pack food. Jesus Food is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide a fully nutritious



meal every day to starving children of all ages round the world. We need to raise enough money to pay for the ingredients that we pack, so donations are appreciated. We also welcome anyone who would like to share in this wonderful experience! We will meet at the Faribault Mall at 6pm. The Jesus Food location is close to the far west door — close to the bathrooms.

### BG Palm Sunday and Easter Choir

Rehearsals on April 6th and 13th at 9:5 A.M.

We will sing

Sunday, April 13th—Palm Sunday,  
 and Sunday, April 20th—Easter Sunday.

All BG singers and singing friends are welcome!





## Making an Easter Change



*Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new. The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter into God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.*

2 Corinthians 5: 16-20 The Message

During this 2025 Lenten time, we have had the opportunity to consider Lent and Easter 2025 through Tom Berlin's *The Third Day* study and through our Discipleship Ministries series *A Lenten Playlist*. Berlin's study offers us a look into how the Resurrection of Jesus Christ changed the lives of Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, Thomas, those on the way to Emmaus, and Paul. The series ends with Jesus. Each week participants discover how lives were changed by what we now celebrate as Easter. Our Sunday worship this Lenten season has followed our United Methodist Discipleship Ministries *Lenten Playlist* where we've heard songs by Coldplay, U2, Avril Lavigne, Kasey Musgraves, and Pink. Not our usual prelude music but all of the songs encourage us to consider our living and how we might make a change that leads to living visibly as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our scripture from 2 Corinthians and The Message translation (from Eugene Peterson) defines living as Christ's representatives by changing how we see and interact with people to settle our relationships. This Easter, we can accept Christ's forgiveness by making changes in our living that will lead us to a "fresh start." This year's Lenten journey and Easter celebration is the time to become friends with God—Eugene Peterson wants us to know that God is already a friend with us. I can't think of a better time or reason to accept Christ's forgiveness and make that change.

May God bless us all as we live into the incredible gift of the Easter revelation.

Jerry, Eddie, and I wish you a blessed Easter!

**Pastor Kathy**



## March Fish Fry News!



Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup> was a GREAT day for our annual Lenten Walleye Fish Fry! The weather held onto its warmth and dryness until just after the last volunteer locked the church doors at 8:00 P.M. – at which time the wind and rain came in full force!

That evening, we fed 250 folks, including 37 “to go” take-out meals. It took 120 pounds of deep-fried walleye, 9 giant cans of green beans (with a “secret sauce recipe”), multiple roasters of scalloped potatoes, and plenty of home-made goodies from people within our congregation to feed everyone. In addition, it took a lot of “People Power” from BGUMC to prepare the church with a top-to-bottom cleaning, set up the serving and dining areas, fill all volunteer positions during the event itself, and to clean up afterward. Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and energy to make this evening a success!

Our free-will offering for the evening totaled \$3,800. 100% of these proceeds go to our BGUMC “Accessibility for All” building project of the south addition.

Below, please enjoy excerpts from the feature article printed in the March 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the Waseca County Pioneer:

### ***Methodists ‘unite’ to operate fish fry Blooming Grove***

By Ben Revermann, staff writer

About 100 pounds of walleye were served during the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church (BGUMC) fish fry the evening of Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, where the cheerful mood was heightened by the unseasonably warm weather.

The plenteous supply of walleye was made possible by the generous donations of donors who declined to be named. There were also scalloped potatoes, buns, and green beans. The women of the church made and donated the desserts, mostly bars and cookies.

According to organizers, proceeds from the fish fry will go toward paying off the church’s “accessibility for all” building project, which added an entryway, elevator, and small kitchen to their structure in 2020. Some stained glass windows were also moved from the former entryway to the new addition for continuity. The original building was moved to its current location at 180<sup>th</sup> Street Morristown (in the NE corner of Waseca County) in 1951.

Joanne Weiske, who was making her way to the basement to eat said, “We live just down the road, we come here for this every year.” Her husband placed their donation in one of the two tin buckets placed both upstairs and down. Guests Andy and April Matthes brought their four boys. Said April, “We live on this side of Morristown and none of us have been here before.” After the family had taken a few bites they all agreed, “Of all the fish dinners in the area, this one is the best so far.” Their children nodded their heads in agreement, while at the same time eyeing the M&M bars and cookies placed just out of their reach while they ate dinner.

Blooming Grove Untited Methodist Church offers services every Sunday at 10:45 A.M. with Pastor Kathy King

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl that Pastor Kathy personally delivered. I can feel all of the prayers held in that shawl, and I can envision each of you holding it and praying over it. As I wear it, I can feel your prayers lifting me, filling me, and surrounding me with God's healing, strength, and hope. I love each of you so very much.

With love,

Jan Redman



Kelli Prchal's father, Kevin, so very much appreciates the prayer shawl that our BG folks hand-crafted, and that we prayed over for him.

### **Congratulations to William Mullenbach**

Congratulations to Will Mullenbach, who was part of this group of four 6<sup>th</sup> grade band students at Medford Public Schools who were selected to play in the Regions Honor Band! They were able to join with band students from other schools in Minnesota as one large band to play in a concert. Will's mom, Val, said that the concert was amazing, and such a great experience for Will. Ask him all about it, and about his instrument of choice, the saxophone!



Photo: (l to r) Jazmin Mejia, William Mullenbach, Bryce Beucler, Leona Malecha.



### **Lent/Easter Mission Opportunity: Disaster Relief for Hurricane Helene and California Wildfires**

Hurricanes and wildfires: we often watch in horror and disbelief, searching for ways that we can provide financial assistance that guarantee that our gifts will reach the people in need. We have found a way!

In March and April, we invite you to help raise funds that we will forward to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). This disaster relief 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.

***We will divide all donations received @ 50/50  
between Hurricane Relief and Wildfire Relief.***

***If you would like to contribute, please note  
"UMCOR" on your check or offering envelope,  
and place your donation in the white "offering  
coffeepot" at the back of the sanctuary.  
Checks should be made out to Blooming Grove  
UMC.***

***In addition, add your loose change to the  
"Shaker Can" at the back of the sanctuary. All  
"Shaker Can" collections will go to this mis-  
sion project as well!***

***Watch as our Hymn of Promise Easter Garden  
Mural in the south addition bursts forth with  
signs of spring and hope – one new flower or  
sprig of grass, butterfly or bird, little creature  
or Easter egg, for each \$10 raised!***



## 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.*



- Sherry, as she has received the “go-ahead” to begin chemotherapy again. Please pray for limited side effects, and for positive results. Also keep Sherry’s family in your prayers as they journey with her in these days.
- Kelli Prchal’s father, Kevin, as he has entered hospice care. Please continue to hold Kevin, his wife, his children, and his grandchildren close in your prayers and your hearts.
- A co-worker of Carolyn Kanne’s who is battling an aggressive form of cancer.
- 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 week of his life, he has already undergone one surgery, and has battled an infection. As he gains a little more strength and stability, he will undergo the first of several heart surgeries ASAP. Please hold Kasen, his parents, grandparents, auntie, and his caregivers in your hearts and your prayers.
- 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.
- Via a message from Fred Vanderwerf, our former United Methodist District Superintendent who just returned from working with United Methodist Churches in the Ukraine: Please continue to hold the people of Ukraine close in our hearts and our prayers. It seems like all hope is being lost.
- Chuck, as he continues with doctor appointments.
- Arlene Wetzel’s father, Arnold, as he experiences continued health issues. And for Arlene, as she provides loving and heartfelt support, along with the staff at Arnold’s care facility.

- Members of the Golombeski family - our BG neighbors and friends - as they face serious health concerns.
- Pastor Jan Redman, as she begins a several stage process for treatment for cancer.
- Don, as he recovers from several falls, and from several rounds of the nasty “bugs” that continue to grab people this winter.
- The family and friends of Trudy Pierce, a good friend of Nicole Wacek, who passed away on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Janice, a cousin of Linda Danks, who is experiencing health concerns.
- Some of the most vulnerable children in our local public schools, whose programming is being compromised due to changes in federal funding. Also for family members of folks in our congregation whose public school jobs are being cut due to changes in federal funding.
- The family and friends of a young rural neighbor of Linda Kosel, as they mourn his death.
- Prayers of gratitude for Wally, son of Carol Karsten, whose cancer remains in remission!
- Joanne, aunt of Sheryl Brisel, who after encountering a series of medical issues, has entered hospice.
- 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.



## Congratulations And Prayers

We celebrate the birth of a darling little boy, Kasen

James Mathern, born 03/22/25 at 7 pounds 9 ounces. Kasen is the grandson of Luke and Bobbi Mathern. His parents are Ben and Sadie. Little 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. Please hold Kasen, his parents, and his caregivers in your hearts and your prayers.

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

April 2025

### **The Blooming Grove Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

**Mailing Address: P.O. Box 171**

**Medford, MN 55049-0171**

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Check us out on Facebook!

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and General Pastoral Questions:**

**Pastor Kathy King**  
**[kking5@hickorytech.net](mailto: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](mailto:kking5@hickorytech.net)

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**Palm Sunday**

**April 13th**

8:15 am at

Janesville UMC

9:30 am at

Waterville EUMC

10:45 am at

Blooming Grove  
UMC



**Maundy  
Thursday**

**Maundy**

**Thursday**

April 17th,

7:00 pm at

Janesville UMC



**Good Friday**

April 18th

7:00 pm at

Waterville EUMC



**Easter Sunday**

**April 20th**

7:30 am at

Blooming Grove

UMC

9:00 am at

Waterville EUMC

10:30 am at

Janesville UMC