

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Blooming Grove UMC - Weekend of January 27th and 28th

“Learn-Party-Serve”

Sometimes in life, unexpected, and awesome opportunities land on our doorstep, just inviting us to walk into the experiences waiting on the other side. That was the case of the weekend of January 27th and 28th. Our BGUMC United Methodist Women, Sunday School Program, and Confirmation Program extended invitations for us join in the four amazing opportunities listed below. We now share our stories with you.

Invitation from BGUMC United Methodist Women

Stand in the Red Zone:

“Intercept the Traffickers” – a Time to Learn



Standing in the Red Zone is the theme of United Methodist Women’s 2018 Intercept Human Trafficking action. Char Frankenberry and Cindy Saufferer attended an educational event at Hennepin United Methodist Church in Minneapolis on January 27th. Highlights included:

- Senator Amy Klobuchar and Representative Rena Moran addressing the work currently being done at the legislative level in the fight against human trafficking.
- Panelists speaking to the challenges of identifying, rescuing and supporting victims of human trafficking.
- A survivor sharing her experience of being trafficked and bringing a face of strength and hope.

As the Super Bowl approaches, awareness of this issue is critical. The FBI identified the Twin Cities as one of 13 U.S. cities with a particularly high incidence rate of child prostitution and in 2015, Minnesota had the third-highest number of human trafficking cases. Thirteen is the average age of someone being targeted for sex trafficking and is divided equally between genders. Homeless and LGBTQ youth are especially vulnerable. The average life span of a victim is 7 years once trafficked. This is a \$99 billion business worldwide affecting 30 million victims.

This is a tough subject and it may seem to big but you can do something. Continue to learn about the issue and use your voice to bring awareness to others. As legislation is introduced, write your representatives in support of tougher penalties for traffickers. Victims of trafficking are our brothers and sisters in this human family. Let us be a part of restoring dignity and wholeness to all God’s children.

Invitation from BGUMC Sunday School 4th – 12th Grade “Thank You” Pizza Party and Movie

As a Thank You to the 4th through 12th Graders for all of their help and leadership in our Sunday School Christmas Program, Brad Saufferer and Mike Nicholson extended an invitation to their students to a pizza party and movie at the Saufferer farm on Sunday, January 28th – immediately following Sunday School. 6 students, 5 Sunday School Leaders, plus Pastors JJ and Stefanie and their family all gathered together in the Saufferer kitchen and basement for fun and fellowship!

Invitation from BGUMC Confirmation Program Bold North – Warm Hearts: Serve the City (Part 1) with Safe Space

The “Back Story”



One million people are expected to visit the Twin Cities throughout the course of Super Bowl week. The work and witness of Minnesota United Methodists as a people of faith hold significant stake in peripheral impact from the big game, especially in the areas of human trafficking, homelessness, and hospitality. Our United Methodist leaders are partnering with an ecumenical initiative, Serve the City, organized by Hope Community Church in Minneapolis, to provide a warm and welcoming place from

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January 29th through February 5th for women at risk for human trafficking during Super Bowl week. Their daily goal: to provide safe shelter for approximately 20-30 people and to provide meals for up to 60 people.

How did we help?



Ten persons from BGUMC traveled to Hope Community Church on the 28th and joined numerous other volunteers to help transform the church into a place of shelter and hospitality. The “BGUMC 10” were asked to tear-down the room in which a Pre-School is housed and set up sleeping spaces to serve 12 sheltered guests. They assembled “bedroom sets”, including bed frames, box springs, mattresses, side chairs, and bedside stands. They made the beds with warm and inviting sheets and blankets and scrounged the back storage room for items that could be used to provide a small sense of privacy between each sleeping space (bulletin boards, tables in storage, cabinets, etc.) In addition, the “BGUMC 10” assembled Hygiene Kits for those who choose to seek shelter at the church (washcloth, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush, chapstick, razor, comb, lotion). They also assembled Winter Kits for those who are not yet ready to seek shelter and choose to go back out into the street (long underwear, warm socks, mittens, hats, scarves). Our “BGUMC 10” worked side-by-side with the energetic young adult volunteers from Hope



Community Church and had a great opportunity to laugh and talk with our new friends throughout the day. It was an amazing to be part of their outreach to the city and to see the volume of furniture and supplies that they had secured through donations. Thank you to the following people who gave of their energy to this important work: Youth – Mason Nagel, Mikayla Janke, Weston Janke, Zoey Morgan. Adults – Brad & Cindy Saufferer, James & Kristin Nagel, Pastor JJ Morgan, Judy Mahler.



Invitation from BGUMC United Methodist Women Bold North – Warm Hearts: Serve the City (Part 2) with Egg Muffins

The “Back Story” (See “Serve the City Part 1). How did we help?

Eleven BGUMC families (adults and kids alike) made and froze approximately 30 dozen “Ham & Cheese Egg Muffins” that BGUMC volunteers took with them on the 28th to Hope Community Church in Minneapolis. These egg muffins will be served as part of breakfast for the persons served by Hope Community Church during the week of the Super Bowl. It is estimated that our egg muffins will be able to serve breakfast to 60 people for three days! Thank you to all of the cooks for graciously donating their time and their baking supplies to this important ministry of feeding people in need.

