



# THE VISITOR



## Rally to End Racism Washington DC

Please pray for all who will join the Rally to End Racism on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at sites across Washington DC, including the Lincoln Memorial and the National Mall. This rally is organized by the National Council of Churches to commemorate the

50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The MN Annual Conference of the UMC is offering participation in this event, in cooperation with the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the UMC. Cindy Saufferer will be attending in honor of her friend Clara Ester, the current Vice President of the National UMW Board. Clara was a good friend of Dr. King and one of the first people to rush to his aid on the day of his assassination.

## BGUMC Lent/Easter Mission Project Raise Some Dough? Can Do!



During Lent and Easter, BGUMC has joined people from across the state of Minnesota to help alleviate hunger through the Minnesota FoodShare Campaign by collecting cash contributions for this important project. All donations will be given to our local food shelves by April 8<sup>th</sup> to qualify for matching Minnesota FoodShare funds.

How have we marked our progress? For every \$10 received, we attached a cardstock label from "Can Do Stew" to a "Food Shelf Lifeline" in the sanctuary! As of this writing – March 27<sup>th</sup>, generous contributions have raised (through March 27th) \$844.35! That's 84 "Can Do Stew" Labels hanging on the Food Shelf Lifelines on both side-walls of the sanctuary!

Thank you for being an integral part of making a difference in our surrounding communities.

## Lent/Easter Seasons Book Study "Surprise the World!" by Michael Frost



The Minnesota United Methodist Bishop invited all MN United Methodists to join in this Lenten/Easter Book study and refresh our practices of being generous, hospitable, Spirited, Christ-like missional people who will surprise the world. Eight persons from BGUMC are gathering on Sunday mornings to engage in lively conversation about each week's theme! After a short Easter Break, we will re-convene at 9:45 A.M. in the Fireside Room:

- April 15<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 5 – Listen
- April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Chapter 6 – Learn
- April 29<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 7 – Sent
- May 6<sup>th</sup>: Chapter 8 – Discipleship, Nurture, and Accountability

We invite you to join us! Contact any one of the leaders for a copy of the book: Cindy Saufferer, Hjordi Churchill, and Judy Mahler.

## Men's Pancake Breakfast








We send a shout-out of thanks to the Men of BGUMC for sponsoring a delicious pancake breakfast on Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 45 people gathered in the dining hall to partake in fellowship over great pancakes, French Toast, sausage, juice, coffee, and milk. \$568 was raised through a free-will offering, with proceeds split between local food shelves and the BGUMC handicap accessibility project. Eight men, plus our three confirmation students (Mikayla Janke, Weston Janke, and Mason Nagel) kept things hopping in the kitchen and at the serving table. We celebrate their hospitality and their culinary skills!

# Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

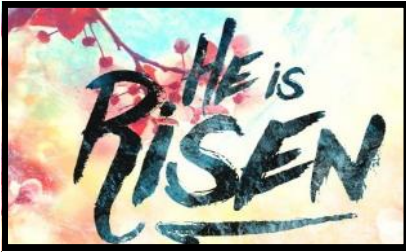
Waterville Evangelical  
 Worship..... 10:30 am  
 Sunday School and Adult  
 Bible Study ..... 9:45 am

## April 2018

Blooming Grove  
 Worship ..... 8:30 am  
 Sunday School..... 9:45 am

1 	2	3	4	5	6	7 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
PASTORS JJ AND STEFANIE ON VACATION*						
8 BG Morning worship created and led by church members  Pastors JJ and Stefanie on Vacation	9 6:30 pm joint BG/WV PPRC meeting at WV	10	11 5:30 pm WV Spaghetti Supper  GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	12  GH Bible Study/RC jail	13	14  11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
15 9:45 am Easter Book Study in Fireside Room  4 pm Waseca Chorale Concert at Star Fire Event Center in Waseca	16 	17 7:00 pm BG Ad Council	18  GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	19	20	21  11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
22 9:45 am Easter Book Study in Fireside Room  	23 6:30 pm BG PPRC at WV	24	25  GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	26  GH Bible Study/RC jail	27 	28  11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
29 9:45 am Easter Book Study in Fireside Room	30	<p><b>*Dean Wolf, pastor at the Elysian UMC, will serve as emergency back-up during the pastors' vacation, and can be reached at his cell (507-327-5771)</b></p>		<p><b>Coding Information</b>                  GH—Gathering House                  ODC—Owatonna Detention Center                  SCDC—Steele County Detention Center                  RC—Rice County</p>		

# The Blooming Grove Visitor



I was recently reminded of my connection to the first Psalm that I had ever memorized. It was on the occasion of my confirmation, many years ago, that I embarked on a journey to commit this thing to memory. I did it so that I could stand before the congregation in Danube, MN, and share with them what I had learned. For this letter, I am sharing the Psalm from the New International Version.

**Psalm 23: 1-6** <sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. <sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, <sup>3</sup> he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. <sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. <sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

I was reminded of my boyhood connection to this Psalm this past weekend. It came to me as I was preparing for a young man's funeral service. Amidst my preparation, prayers and ponderings on what I was going to offer during the service, this Psalm rang out in my heart. How many of us have been in the midst of life when we have been struck by such awesome words like the beauty found in this Psalm? How many of us have allowed those words to dance around in our hearts for a while as we savored their meaning? Friends, I can tell you that I allowed this Psalm to reconnect me to my boyhood, my faith, my church and my Savior Jesus. Some say that the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is the most popular psalm. I think it is popular because of the comfort that is offered. I know that I thank God for my childhood pastor's encouragement of me early on in my faith journey, to commit God's word to my memory. This Psalm has been one that has stuck with me and has provided for me in a variety of ways.

I know that many of you who have heard this Psalm once or twice before, and that you are probably aware of how it intentionally points us to Jesus. How it shows Jesus being the Good Shepherd and how He is the one who walked among us as fully God and fully human long ago. And how Jesus is available to us in our times of joy and times of need. You may be a person who finds peace in this Psalm because of its emphasis on Jesus. How it describes eloquently that He alone is the source of all comfort and peace. And that He is the one who "leads me beside quiet waters" and who "restores my soul" (vv. 2-3). I believe the Holy Spirit allowed this Psalm to minister to the people who were present for that young man's funeral. I also know that the Holy Spirit has used this Psalm for me this past Easter season, to give me a richer experience of Jesus' love for me and the world.

Many of us have the sights, sounds, joys, excitement, and leftovers in the refrigerator, to remind us of the amazing Easter Season that we just experienced together. As a group of faithful followers of Jesus, we remembered together Jesus' actions on Maundy Thursday and his institution of the Lord's Supper. We have the visual images of Good Friday etched in our memories. The day that Jesus allowed himself to be hung on a cross for our soul's sake. Then we have Jesus' words and actions forever embedded in our hearts as captured by the gospel of John, **"It is finished!" Then he bowed his head and released his spirit.** (John 19:30). But we also had the joy of Sunday morning, oh Sunday morning! What a glorious day it was when Jesus did what he said he was going to do. My Lord, what a morning when he rose up from the grave. Wouldn't it be great if we could somehow find a way to be reminded of the joy of Easter and take it with us everywhere?

I have something for you to consider. Would you consider reading through the gospels and selecting a segment of the Easter story that brings joy to your heart? Then would you consider memorizing that segment? You decide how many verses you would like to store in your memory to rely on in the future. You select the parts of Jesus' actions that you want to be reminded of during those unexpected moments in your day. For me, I am working on Matthew 28, the whole chapter. I know it will take patience. I know it will take time. I also know, that each time I work on memorizing scripture, I am filled with joy again and again. Would you join me in thanking Jesus for all he has done for us? Thank you Jesus.

*Pastor JJ Morgan and Pastor Stefanie Morgan*

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## APRIL CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

9 Mon	6:30 pm	Joint BG/WV PPRC meeting at WV
15 Sun	9:45 am	Easter Book Study /Fireside Rm
15 Sun	4:00 pm	Waseca Chorale Concert
17 Tues	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
22 Sun	9:45 am	Easter Book Study /Fireside Rm
23 Mon	6:30 pm	BG only PPRC meeting in WV
29 Sun	9:45 am	Easter Book Study /Fireside Rm

### Parament Colors

The parament color for April is White.

### Cleaning

April 8	Nancy and Susan
April 22	Nancy and Susan

### Happy Birthday

1	Gillian Needham
4	LeAnn Kanne
6	Luke Ahlman
7	Amy Saufferer
7	Cindy Saufferer
9	Jewell Nagel
9	Stephanie Fyvie
10	Dale Danks
13	Jackson Erickson
14	Brad Saufferer
22	Emily Nagel
23	Grant Needham
26	Olivia Full
29	Zoey Morgan
30	Pam Carty
30	Jan Redman



### Happy Anniversary

15	Ken & Tena Harren
22	Cris & Karrie VanZuilen

Pastors JJ and Stefanie will be on vacation from April 2-8. Dean Wolf, pastor at the Elysian UMC, will serve as emergency back-up, and can be reached at his cell (507-327-5771)



## Treasurer's Report

February 21—March 20, 2018

Income	
<b>General Budget</b>	<b>\$3,832.25</b>
Expenses	
JJ's Salary	1,258.81
Stefanie's Salary	375.00
Electric for parsonage	68.67
Water for Parsonage	50.06
Mileage	91.29
Meal Expense	14.46
Cable TV	9.98
Health Insurance	627.50
Pension	221.63
Centerpoint Energy	42.55
Cell Phone	35.00
Internet	20.44
Waste Management	24.05
Copier	22.50
Parsonage	100.00
Cleaning	112.00
Excel Energy	67.41
Sunday School	421.89
Tax Preparation	30.00
Checks	29.70
Worship	5.86
Phone	43.83
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,649.63</b>

(Net Income: + \$182.62)

### Other Income Received

Easter Flowers	175.00
Food Shelf	320.00
Pancake Breakfast	568.70
Restoration	250.00
Visitor	10.00

### Readers, Greeters, Treats

April 1	Reader: Mikayla Spinler Greeters: Dave & Sheryl Brisel
April 8	Reader Needed Greeters: Cris & Karrie VanZuilen Treats: Linda Danks
April 15	Reader: Patti Ellingson Greeter: Chuck Danks Treats: Patti Ellingson
April 22	Reader: Linda Danks Greeters & Treats: Dave & Sheryl Brisel
April 29	Reader: Char Frankenberry Greeter & Treats: Chuck & Linda Danks



# The Blooming Grove Visitor



## Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.

- ◆ Jake Summer's brother Bill who suffers from chronic knee pain. The doctors just performed a procedure in the hopes of getting some relief. He now finds that his insurance won't cover the cost of the procedure.
- Brad, a co-worker of Hjordi Churchill's family members in Spooner, WI. Brad suffered extensive injuries in an explosion at their place of work: a broken back, broken arm, and injuries requiring amputation of both legs at the knee. Brad is now home, and beginning the next phase of his recovery. Brad is 29 and married, with two small children.
- The mother of Hjordi Churchill and Judy Mahler's back-yard neighbor, as she recovers from surgery to battle an aggressive cancer.
- Bonnie Lima, sister-in-law of Eleanor Saufferer, as doctors work to fine-tune treatment for a heart condition.
- Robin, a good friend of Marlis Mahler, as she cares for her father while he undergoes medical testing and follow-up.
- A friend of Tracie Spinler's whose 13-year-old grandson is hospitalized, and in a fragile place in his life.
- Brian Kosel, and his wife Linda – and adult children Allison Janke, Kristin Nagel, and Jason Kosel. Brian is recovering from a significant surgery to remove a conglomeration of veins (a fisutula) on the right side of his head just beneath the skull, in order to prevent a stroke or aneurysm. Please keep them all in your prayers during Brian's time of recovery.
- Pastors JJ and Stefanie Morgan and family, as they give thanks that although their encounter with a deer resulted in the demise of their vehicle, neither JJ nor Zoey were injured.
- Jonathan Zierdt of Mankato, friend of several BGUMC members, as he continues his battle with an aggressive form of prostate cancer.
- Stefanie Morgan's brother, Andy, and sister-in-law, Judy, as they mourn the loss of their baby.
- Theresa Riecke as she undergoes medical testing for recurring headaches.
- Deanna Kanne, who was called back to an additional session of internship at the greenhouses at Disney's Epcot Center in Florida. She will complete the last four months of an unexpectedly open "new intern's spot" and will be at Epcot through the end of June.
- Our children, youth, grandchildren, nieces & nephews (throughout the state and the country) as they develop relationships, the ability to work as a team, and their own strength and well-being through participating in sporting activities.
- Marlis Mahler, her co-worker Alicyn, and the students they support, as their Level 3 program undergoes transition in the months ahead.
- Dean, a co-worker of Hjordi Churchill, as he helps care for, and advocate for, his mother, who just underwent open heart surgery, and his father, who is battling Alzheimer's, and has had to transfer to long-term care due to Dean's mother's heart surgery.
- Mike Nicholson's brother, Tom, in California, who is undergoing medical testing.
- Logan Pleschourt, a student at Medford High School, who is succeeding in his battle with lymphoma. Prayers of thanks for all who gathered at an event at the school, held in Logan's honor, titled "Medford Tigers Tackling Childhood Cancer", with a goal to raise money to continue the fight to end childhood cancer. Members of the Faribault Police team, firefighters, teachers, Minnesota Gopher football players, fellow students, and sports rivals/friends from WEM gathered together and shaved their heads for this fund-raising event.
- Patti Ellington's two oldest boys who have both made career changes.
- Jack, the 16 month old grandson of a co-worker of Marlis Mahler, who will be undergoing skin grafting after picking up a hot hair dressing tool in the bathroom.
- The leaders of our country and countries around the world.
- Caregivers of persons with health concerns.
- Prayers for the safety and well-being of children in the midst of concerning family situations.
- For all of us to remember we are all a part of the community and body of Christ in the world.
- All others who have been lifted in prayer this past month, both aloud, and silently.

Thank you from Linda Kosel to everyone at BGUMC for the prayers, cards, and food that have been shared in support of their family during the time of Brian's surgery and his ongoing recovery.

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## In Sympathy

**John M. Rathai, age 36, of Medford,** died February 17<sup>th</sup> in Ashland, WI from injuries as a result of a snowmobile accident. Funeral services were held on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Faribault. John worked for

the MN Dept. of Corrections in Faribault starting as a guard, canine officer and then elevated to Lieutenant. He was in charge of the SORT TEAM (Special Operation Response Team) at the Faribault facility. John's life was full of activities which include camping, playing softball, snowmobiling, riding his Harley, running a 15k and torch runs along with many other outdoor activities. John will be missed by his daughter Bailey and her mother Alison (Matt) Maas of Faribault. (John and Alison had attended BGUMC when Bailey was born and little Bailey was baptized at BGUMC.)

**Martha Ann Bates, age 79 of Hopkins,** who passed away on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services were held on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at Eden Prairie United Methodist Church. Martha graduated from Dodge Center High School in 1956 and Mankato State College in 1959.



She taught elementary school in Le Center, MN, St. Louis Park, MN, Meadows School in Fort Hood, TX, Alden, MN and at Alice Smith Elementary in Hopkins, MN. Martha is survived by her husband, Don, children, grandchildren, and her sister, Linda (and Chuck) Danks of Medford (members of BGUMC) and Martha's brother, John Losee of Owatonna. A quote from Martha's obituary reads as follows: Martha – you are a wonderful part of the community and the world and our lives are better for knowing you. Thank you for your strength, warmth, kindness and welcoming.

## Lenten Combined Choir for Holy Week

We have been delighted to share community and fellowship through rehearsals and performances of the Holy Week Combined Choir. 15 people from BGUMC and Waterville EUMC joined together to create beautiful music for our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services. We look forward to singing together again in the future! All singers are welcome!

*"To sing is to pray twice."*  
Saint Augustine

## UMW Minutes March 22, 2018



The UMW met March 22 at Faye's. Char had the lesson.

The Treasurer reported \$785.54 in the budget. The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

Sunshine report: cards were sent to the VanZuilen family, Gerry Morgan and Linda Danks.

The Scholarship Awards at Medford H.S will be given out the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May. Theresa may be able to present our scholarships.

Carolyn received an e-mail pertaining to the General Assembly in May. Cindy Saufferer will introduce speaker Leymah Gbowee from Liberia.

Other up-coming events:

- Emma Norton Dinner and Silent Auction on May 7<sup>th</sup>
- Mission U July 13-15 at St. Cloud and Mission U Too July 28<sup>th</sup> at Detroit Lakes. Mission studies are: Embracing Wholeness, What about our Money, Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the U.S.
- Spring Gathering in New Ulm April 21
- Day Apart in Springfield June 12.

Tracie will check on dates for a Bridal Shower with Lacey.

Amanda wrote a letter to the UMW asking for a donation to summer camp. We agreed to give her \$50.00. We decided this should be a budget item in the future.

Easter slips were made out. Cleaning will be Saturday March 31 at 9:00.

Our next UMW meeting date is changed to May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Char will be our hostess and Faye will have the lesson.

## The Waseca Chorale Presents

### "It's About Time"

Sunday

April 15, 2018

4:00 pm

Star Fire Event Center  
206 2nd Ave SW, Waseca

Ticket Price \$12 (Includes dessert and coffee/water)



# The Blooming Grove Visitor

We want to thank everyone who ordered flowers for our sanctuary for Easter Sunday in honor or in memory of someone special in their lives. The flowers add so much to our Easter celebration.

Below are the donors and the loved ones they are honoring.



Dave & Sheryl Brisel

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

Hjordi Churchill

In Memory of Beverly & Claire Churchill  
In Memory of Dean Kremmin

Chuck & Linda Danks

In Memory of Martha Losee Bates  
In Memory of M.H. & Genevieve Losee  
In Memory of Kenneth & Opal Danks

Patti Ellingson

In Memory and In Honor of all families

Don & Char Frankenberry

In Memory of Parents

Brian & Carolyn Kanne

In Memory of Grandparents

David & Jenny Kanne & Family

In Memory of Harold Kanne

Faye Kanne

In Memory of Harold Kanne

LeAnn Kanne

In Honor of Faye Kanne  
In Memory of Harold Kanne

Carol Karsten

In Memory of Cindy Karsten  
In Memory of Donald Karsten  
In Memory of Kenneth Karsten

Justin, Kristin & Leah Krell

In Memory of Joyce Krell

Bonnie Lima

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

Marlis Mahler

In Honor of Nieces and Nephews  
In Memory of Glenn & Alice Mahler  
In Memory of David Mahler

Keith & Shelley McColley

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

Kris Nagel & Family

In Memory of Owen Nagel

Keith Remund Family

In Memory of Kurtis Remund  
In Memory of Donald & Florence Remund

Brad & Cindy Saufferer

In Memory of Dan Cartmill  
In Memory of Harold Saufferer

Eleanor Saufferer

In Memory of Harold Saufferer

Jim & Chery Southworth

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

Brad & Tracie Spinler, Mikeyla, Alex & Lacey  
Justin, Kristin & Leah Krell

In Memory of Marissa Spinler  
In Memory of Harold & Leona Minske

Cris & Karrie VanZuilen & Family

In Memory of Phil & Theresa VanZuilen  
In Memory of Brittney Landsverk  
In Honor of Don & Jeanne Michel



# The Blooming Grove Visitor

## Church Council Meeting Minutes

### Blooming Grove UMC Council Meeting February 6, 2018

**Members Present:** Hjordi Churchill, Brain & Carolyn Kanne, Judy Mahler, Cindy Saufferer, Brad & Tracie Spinler, Dave & Sheryl Brisel, Marlis Mahler, Char Frankenberg, Pastor J.J. Morgan, Pastor Stefanie Morgan.

Chair Hjordi welcomed the Council and opened the meeting with a reading by Harriet Jane Olsen, General Secretary of the UMW on the topic “Many of us together – doing things we never dreamed of”.

Minutes from November 7th were reviewed and approved.

#### Updates – Life of the Church

- Operation Christmas Child – Many shoe boxes, filled with gifts, were collected and delivered.
- Sunday School Christmas Program – a wonderful celebration. 35 children/youth/adults participated in the photo shoot in November with 80+ children, parents, grandparents, friends and neighbors attending the December program.
- Fall/Christmas BGUMC Disaster Relief Mission Outreach offering totaled **\$2,400**.
- Christmas Adopt-A-Family - the generosity of BGUMC helped a family have a wonderful Christmas.
- BGUMC again donated to Emma’s Place (Maplewood, MN) with Christmas Cub Food Gifts
- Community Outreach for Super Bowl – The BGUMC confirmation class coordinated an outreach event to Hope Community Church in Minneapolis in which they helped “transform” rooms into a safe place for women who are victims of human trafficking during the Super Bowl. In addition, 30 dozen egg bake muffins were provided by generous BG people to feed women staying at Hope Community Church. That’s a lot of eggs!
- January Leadership Retreat –Several BGUMC members attended a leadership retreat hosted by Pastors Stephanie and JJ. A day of good conversation, reflection, and fellowship.

#### BGUMC Guiding Principles

Hjordi led us in a review of our *BGUMC Guiding Principles*– copies were provided for all in attendance and extras placed in the back of the sanctuary. They are also available for viewing on our BG website. Hjordi asked for everyone to spend some time between now and our next Council meeting thinking about our Guiding Principles in the context of . . . “How are they still relevant?” and “How do we continue to ‘put hands and feet’ to them?”

#### Lent and Easter Special Offering

The Council agreed unanimously that the BGUMC special offering for Lent/Easter will be donated to the Steele and Waseca County Food Shelves. Minnesota Food Share matches all monetary donations made to the food shelves during March – so it’s a great month to give. The monetary gifts need to be to the food shelf no later than April 8, 2018 for the matching funds to apply.

#### Pentecost Special Offering

The Council agreed that our BGUMC special offering for the Pentecost Season (to be kicked off on Pentecost Sunday) will be for continued hurricane relief for Puerto Rico. Judy will look for the corresponding number of the UMCOR disaster relief fund.

#### Mission Opportunity – Henderson Settlement Mission Trip

Cindy Saufferer mentioned the opportunity to take part in the Henderson Settlement Mission Trip sponsored by the Minnesota United Methodist Conference. The Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, is home to 23,000 people who live in extreme poverty. The trip is all about service to these folks. Registration deadline: March 30, 2018. Details available on at [minnesotaumc.org](http://minnesotaumc.org).

#### Commission on the Way Forward

Cindy Saufferer provided an excellent overview and update (verbal and handout) on the Commission on the Way Forward.

- The 2016 General Conference authorized the Council of Bishops to form the commission after decades of intensifying debate around inclusion of LGBTQ individuals. The commission has the task of advising the bishops on possible ways to clarify our thinking on what holds us together as a church and possible ways through the impasse. In turn the bishops will use that advice in determining what it submits to a Special General Conference in February 2019.
- Through the National UMW, Cindy has also been learning more about how congregations can host



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conversations about this topic so that all are well informed and have an opportunity to provide insight. At a future meeting, we will consider the possibility of BGUMC hosting a “conversation/listening” event for UMCs in our area.

## Committee Updates

Hjordi provided the 2018 Officer/Team/Committee list to all in attendance.

## **PPRC**

The PPRC will discuss Safe Sanctuaries and bring information to the next meeting.

JJ and Stefanie both received Scholarships for Clergy Leadership Academy Wesley Pilgrimage in England (a requirement for the ordination process). The WV/BG sponsorship portion of the trip’s cost will be reduced by the amount of both scholarships.

## **Trustees**

The MN Department of Health recently checked the quality of our water. Some minor adjustments are needed with regard to how our water softener drains. The Trustees continue to consider options to make BGUMC handicap accessible (i.e. new entrance with elevator or an addition to the church with new fellowship hall, kitchen, and bathrooms). Progress has been made and Brad Spinler will be meeting with a draftsman to review different options. A full report will be provided to the Council before decisions are made.

## **UMW**

- March UMW meeting will be at Faye Kanne’s. Easter breakfast plans are underway.
- Cindy Saufferer and her three daughters will be attending UMW National Assembly in Columbus, OH this spring.
- Cindy is also travelling to Washington DC to participate in the Rally to End Racism, April 3-5. This event is organized by the National Council of Churches to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King’s assassination.
- Worship Committee is meeting mid-February to plan for Lent and Easter.

## **Communications**

- BGUMC Website upgrade is tentatively planned for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.

## 2018 Brainstorming Ideas for BGUMC outreach and visibility in our community

- Revisited having a worship service at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. Cindy Saufferer will check with Rev. Lyndy Zabel about the Jumpin’ Jehosaphats providing music. More discussion will take place when we hear back from Lyndy.

- Celebrated the success of 2017 VBS and the possibility of holding a community VBS again in 2018. Discussed possibility of using the format of a VBS Day Camp co-led by BGUMC volunteers and staff from Good Earth Village ELCA Bible Camp (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) – Spring Valley, MN. (We had done this several times in the past.) Judy will call Good Earth to see if they still have programming and staff available for this kind of program.

## Updates from the Pastors

They will be hosting a Lenten Bible Study – “Surprise the World” on Sunday evenings at their home, including a time of dining together. Pastor JJ talked about an expectation from the MN Conference for each church to lay out a plan to answer the question “What are we doing to build Disciples?” He asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to work with he and Pastor Stephanie to put together a plan. Hjordi volunteered to be one of the committee members. We also reflected upon using all of what we had just discussed as a springboard for further discussion about building disciples.

## Upcoming Events:

- Ash Wednesday Service at BG – February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 P.M.
- Joint Easter Choir with BGUMC and WV – Wednesday Night Rehearsals at BG
- Lenten Bible Study and Supper with Pastors JJ and Stefanie – Sunday evenings during Lent
- Men’s Pancake Breakfast – Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup> – After Church - Proceeds to Food Shelf and BG Handicap Accessibility Fund
- UMW Thank-You Night - March 15<sup>th</sup> at Faye Kanne’s Home - for all who have helped provide baked goods throughout the year
- Palm Sunday Service at BG – March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 A.M.
- Maundy Thursday Service at WV – March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.
- Good Friday Service at BG – March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.
- Easter Sunday Service at BG – April 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:30 A.M. with Breakfast to Follow

## **Action items (in addition to those listed above):**

- Audit our Membership list before next Charge Conference (fall 2018). Carolyn Kanne will organize with help from others TBD.
- Safe Sanctuaries program to be established by PPRC – work to begin second quarter.

**Next meeting on April 17, 7:00 pm**

Submitted by Char Frankenberry, Secretary

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

April 2018

**The • Blooming • Grove • Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

43089 180th Street, Morristown, MN 55052

(NE corner of Waseca County)

Mail to: P.O. Box 171

Medford, MN 55049-0171

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**“Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly”**

**Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> – Second Sunday of Easter**

**Worship Service led by Members of BGUMC**

We invite you to join us in morning worship on Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup> for a worship service created by the BGUMC Worship Team, and led by youth and adults from the congregation, as we take the role of pulpit supply while Pastor JJ and Pastor Stefanie are on vacation. Cindy Saufferer will be bring the message, sharing her experiences upon returning that week from the March on Washington on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (See article in this month's Visitor.) She will also share her reflection on the word “Just”...helping us to see ourselves through a new lens...as “A Just Group of People at a Country Church who make a difference”. Our time of worship will be filled with lively hymns and readings of justice and service to the world. We hope to see you there!

