



THE VISITOR

Readers, Greeters, Treats

- Feb 4 Reader: Linda Danks
Greeters & Treats: Judy Mahler, Hjordi Churchill
- Feb 11 Reader: Theresa Riecke
Greeters: Theresa & Amanda Riecke
Treats Needed
- Feb 18 Readers: Brad & Cindy Saufferer
Greeters & Treats: Chuck & Linda Danks
- Feb 25 Reader: Carolyn Kanne
Greeter & Treats: Faye Kanne

Lenten Study



This Lent (February 14-April 1), the Bishop and Cabinet invite all Minnesota United Methodists to take on some intentional practices of being generous, hospitable, Spirit-led Christ-like missional people that surprise the world. We will be hosting dinner and discussion at the parsonage on Sunday evenings during Lent, 5:30 -7 pm, February 18 to March 25th. There is a \$5.00 book available for purchase as part of the study. Please RSVP to Pastor Stefanie or JJ to let us know if you would like a book. All are welcome. Child-care will be provided, if needed.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 14th
7:30 pm



- March 25 **Palm Sunday** Regular worship service times at both churches
- March 29 **Maundy Thursday** 7:00 pm Service at Waterville
- March 30 **Good Friday** 7:00 pm Service at BG
- April 1 **Easter Sunday** 8:30 am Easter Service at BG with Breakfast to follow.

JOIN THE WORSHIP CHOIR



Lenten Combined Choir for Holy Week

We are excited to extend an invitation to all singers at Blooming Grove UMC, Waterville EUMC, and anyone that you all would like to invite - to be part of a combined Blooming Grove UMC and Waterville EUMC Choir for Holy Week. We have also extended an invitation to our Catholic neighbors and some of them may be able join us as well! See below for details. If you would like to join us, please let me know by February 5th so that I can order our music. It will be great to share company in song!
Judy Mahler, 507-456-3937 (cell)

Tentative Performance Schedule

Palm Sunday Weekend: either Saturday evening at an area Catholic church to which our Catholic neighbors now have connection or Sunday morning at both BG and WV

Maundy Thursday: WV

Good Friday: BG

Rehearsal Schedule

Formal Rehearsals: Wednesdays, February 21st through March 28th from 7:15 P.M. - 8:30 P.M. at Blooming Grove UMC. (Depending on the evening, we may be done by 8:15.)

“As You Like” rehearsals for anyone who can’t make Wednesday evening rehearsals or who would like additional practice: Sunday, February 25th through Sunday, March 18th from 10:30 A.M. - 11:15 A.M. at Blooming Grove UMC

Cleaning

February 11

Nancy and Susan

February 25








Nancy and Susan

Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

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

February 2018

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

				1 National Freedom Day 	2 Ground Hog Day 	3 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
4 	5	6 7:00 pm BG Church Council Meeting	7	8 11:30 am BG Prayer Brunch at Urban Bistro 6:30 pm BG Worship Committee GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	9 GH Bible Study/RC jail	10 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
11	12 6:30 pm WV Ad Council Abe Lincoln's Birthday 	13 	14 Ash Wednesday Services 6:00 pm at WV 7:30 pm at BG 5:30 pm WV Spaghetti Supper GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	15	16	17 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
18 5:30 pm Lenten Study at the Parsonage	19 	20	21 7:15 pm Lenten Choir Rehearsal at BG GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	22 George Washington's Birthday 	23 GH Bible Study/RC jail	24 11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
25 10:30 am Extra "As You Like" Lenten Choir Rehearsal at BG 5:30 pm Lenten Study at the Parsonage	26	27	28 7:15 pm Lenten Choir Rehearsal at BG	Coding Information GH—Gathering House ODC—Owatonna Detention Center SCDC—Steele County Detention Center RC—Rice County		
SAVE THE DATE—Men's Pancake Breakfast—March 10th.						

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“As members of this congregation, will you faithfully participate in its ministries by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness?” If so say “I will”.
[“Reception into the local congregation” pg. 38 United Methodist Hymnal]

Pastor Stefanie and I have enjoyed this current sermon series about discipleship. As people who are continuing to learn and grow as disciples ourselves, we have found this series helpful for our own growth and pray that it has helped you to grow as well. There is no better way to remember than to study, ask questions and share what you have learned with others.

As study material, we have utilized the Bible and the book titled A Disciples Path: Deepening your relationship with Christ and the church by James A. Harnish. Within this series, we have been reminded of some of the basics of what makes us special as followers of Jesus and what makes us unique as United Methodists. The founder of Methodism, John Wesley, so poetically invites all of us to “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.” As a disciple, we understand that we can work toward this vision by Wesley by being a well-rounded follower of Jesus in these five areas.

Prayer. Jesus speaks of prayer in Matthew 6:7-8 and invites us to pray his name. As people working on being better disciples of Jesus, we need to remain in continuous communication with our living a Lord and Savior. Prayer is how that happens. “Prayer and scripture are the nonnegotiable essentials for the journey of discipleship. Without them, we run out of steam or get sidetracked along the way.” [Harnish, pg. 36.]

Presence. In the book of Hebrews 10:23-25 it speaks of the importance of encouraging one another in our faith journey. The brilliance of early Methodism was built upon this idea. John Wesley's philosophy grew from scripture “The gospel of Christ knows of no religion, but social; no holiness but social holiness.” Through his system of small groups, people found a way to learn of their faith, ask questions of fellow believers and to have a community to help them grow in their discipleship actions. “The evidence is clear that if an individual’s only contact with the congregation is worship, there is a good chance that he or she either will fall away or will miss out on the concern and care of the church community. Growth to maturity as a disciple of Jesus Christ happens best when each individual disciple is connected to others in the community of a small group.” [Harnish, pg. 40]

Gifts. Jesus says of money in Matthew chapter 6 ²⁴ **“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. [NIV]** As Methodists, we understand that using our gifts of money is important for the building up the body of Christ, which is the church.

Service. We have Jesus’ word that the Holy Spirit is with us. As believers we are invited to show the world God’s love and share the good news of Jesus. One way is to give of ourselves and share the skills, spiritual gifts and our time for the benefit of others. “It’s amazing enough to believe that God chooses to accomplish the transformation of the world through the lives of ordinary men and women who become disciples of Jesus Christ” [Harnish, pg. 57].

Witness. Our Savior says in the book of Matthew 28:18-20 that we are to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. “The bottom line is that being a witness isn’t nearly as difficult or intimidating as it often seems. It simply means being who we are as followers of Jesus Christ and allowing the [Holy] Spirit of God to use our lives to touch the lives of others” [Harnish, pg. 70].

The conclusion to this sermon series will be on February 11th when we celebrate our identity as followers of Jesus and our commitment to do so following the practices established by the United Methodist Church. We invite you to come that day and renew your desire to be committed followers of Jesus and to renew your covenant as a United Methodist. If you are reading this newsletter and are not yet a member of the United Methodist Church, we invite you to join us on our journey to become better disciples of Jesus Christ as we join in God’s plan to transform the world. Contact either Pastor Stefanie Morgan or Pastor JJ Morgan to learn how to become a member.

Blessings on your discipleship journey.

Pastor JJ Morgan and Pastor Stefanie Morgan

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MARCH CALENDAR

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



Treasurer's Report

December 28, 2017—January 27, 2018

Tues	Feb 6	7:00 pm	BG Ad Council
Thurs	Feb 8	6:30 pm	BG Worship Committee (rescheduled)
Wed	Feb 14	6:00 pm	BG Ash Wednesday Service
Sun	Feb 18	5:30 pm	Lenten Study at Parsonage
Wed	Feb 21	7:15 pm	Lenten choir rehearsal at BG
Sun	Feb 25	10:30 am	Extra "As You Like" Lenten Choir Rehearsal/BG
		5:30 pm	Lenten Study at Parsonage
Wed	Feb 28	7:15 pm	Lenten Choir Rehearsal/BG

Income
General Budget **\$4,298.00**

Expenses	
Salary	1,633.81
Electric for parsonage	48.89
Water for Parsonage	50.79
Cable TV	9.98
Health Insurance	627.50
Pension	221.63
Centerpoint Energy	29.12
Cell Phone	35.00
Internet	20.44
Insurance	3,244.00
Copier	273.50
Cleaning	112.00
Excel Energy	64.78
Parsonage	100.00
Phone	41.20
Total Expenses	\$ 6,512.64

(Net Income: – \$2,214.64)

Other Income Received
Restoration 25.00
Visitor 60.00

Happy February Birthday

- 1 Jake Full
- 6 Kristin Nagel
- 11 Kristin Krell
- 13 Amanda Riecke
- 16 Ivan Buchholz
- 16 Katie Martin
- 16 Kendra Yule
- 22 Leighton Nicholson
- 24 Deanna Kanne
- 24 Tracie Spinler
- 25 Ben Full



Happy Anniversary

February 4th to Mike & Jenny Nicholson

Parament Colors

February 4 Green
February 11 White
February 14, 18, 25 Purple



Preparing Our Easter Garden



It is time to start looking ahead, and plan to create a beautiful indoor garden on Easter Sunday. This year you can order a Tulip Planter or 10 Pansy bowl for \$12; Easter Lily for \$13.00; Cyclamen, Kalanchoe, Rieger Begonia and Spring Mum for \$16 each; Azalea or Hydrangea for \$25 each. Please indicate if you want a bow included. Greenwald's will select the color based on the best plants they have available. Please make your check out to the church with "Easter flower" on the corner notation. A sign-up sheet will be available at church for those who are able to attend worship. If you live away from the area and would like to order a flower in memory or in honor of loved ones, please fill out the form below and mail it to the church at Box 171, Medford, MN, 55049. You can also call Chery at 507-685-4174 or email CherySouth@gmail.com. We will place our first order by April 3rd for a better selection and add more later as needed.

From:	In Memory/Honor Of:	Flower
_____	_____	_____
_____ @ \$12	_____ @ \$13	_____ @ \$16
_____ @ \$25	TOTAL	_____

Include a bow: Yes No

Make check payable to Blooming Grove United Methodist Church with "Easter flower" in the notation line.
Mail order form and check to PO Box 171, Medford, MN 55049

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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.



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Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.



- Friends of Marlis Mahler whose 6 month old son, Hudson, is now on dialysis following an unsuccessful heart surgery.
- Dar Lundin, a friend of Cindy Saufferer, whose wife, Betty, was killed in a car accident recently. Dar was also injured in the accident. Dar has Alzheimer's and Betty was his primary care given. He will now face other arrangements for his care.
- Susan, wife of Brad Saufferer's co-worker, as she recovers from a staph infection after recent back surgery.
- Missy Karsten, grand-daughter of Carol Karsten, recovering from a kidney infection.
- Pat, Mike Nicholson's sister, as she adjusts to changes in stamina after surgery to install a pacemaker.
- Jan, Pastor JJ's mother, who is undergoing testing for unresolved pain in her arm.
- Homeless people across the nation who are without adequate shelter in this extreme winter.
- Family members of the United Methodist family from St. Paul, MN who were critically injured in an automobile accident in Iowa.
- Persons serving in the U.S. armed forces, and the difficult circumstances in which they work.
- Mel, the principal at the school where Marlis Mahler works, whose mother has just been diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer.
- Sue, a co-worker of Karrie VanZuilen, whose husband has a blood infection.
- Bruce Christie, former pastor of BGUMC, who is dealing with medical concerns.
- A joy for Pastors JJ & Stefanie Morgan as they celebrate the news that they are the recipients of scholarships for a Wesley Continuing Education trip to England.
- A friend of the Brian & Carolyn Kanne family, whose mother passed away.
- Carolyn and Deanna Kanne as they drive back from Florida – at the conclusion of Deanna's internship at Disney World.
- Theresa Riecke's cousin George, in Seattle, whose father passed away from a heart attack.
- The survivors, and the families of the victims, of the school shooting in Kentucky.
- Marlis Mahler, who celebrates a successful jump in the Owatonna Polar Plunge and the almost \$800 that she raised to go toward Special Olympics, in honor of her niece Tamara, a devoted Special Olympics athlete.

- Marlis Mahler, and her co-workers, as they journey through transitions in the education program in which they work.
- Martha, sister of Linda Danks, who is undergoing experimental treatments for cancer that are taking a tremendous toll on her body. Martha's goal is to be well enough to travel to Nashville to attend her granddaughter's graduation in May.
- All others who have been lifted in prayer this past month, both aloud, and silently.

In Sympathy

Linda Rae Morgan, age 70, of Waseca, passed away January 2nd at the Homestead Hospice House in Owatonna, Minnesota. Linda was born in Albert Lea. She was united in marriage to Gerald R. Morgan in Waseca. They recently lived just SE of Blooming Grove Church. She was a member of West Freeborn Lutheran Church. Linda is survived by her husband, Gerald R. Morgan; children, Brenda (Greg) Moyer and Rob (Laurie) Abbe; step-children, Kelly (Frank) Dorpinghaus, Michael Morgan, and Jackson Morgan.



Gayle Reineke, 92, of Faribault died January 8th in Faribault. Gayle was married to Weldon Reineke who preceded her in death in 2011. Weldon grew up just north of the BG church.

Betty Terpstra Thon, 87, of Owatonna died January 5th. Betty grew up on the family farm in Blooming Grove township. She and her husband owned the Thon Bookstore and Thon Music in Owatonna.



Prayer Shawl Ministry: Support Like a Net Made Strong by Many Strands

Jenny, a friend of Karrie VanZuilen's who was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer in early December – is preparing for her oldest daughter's wedding and has discovered that her BGUMC prayer shawl is the perfect match in color of the dress that she will wear to the wedding. She is celebrating the wonderful news that her doctors gave after her first round of chemotherapy – that the prognosis is better than they could have imagined. Jenny told Karrie that it is the ongoing prayers flowing through the BGUMC prayer shawl .

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Blooming Grove UMC Council Meeting November 7, 2017



Attendees: Hjordi Churchill, Carolyn Kanne, Stefanie Morgan, JJ Morgan, Judy Mahler, Cindy Saufferer, Brad Saufferer, Allison Janke, Brian Kanne, Marlis Mahler, Dave Brisel, Sheryl Brisel, Patti Ellingson, Tracie Spinler (via phone).

Chair Hjordi Churchill called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm., and with Cindy Saufferer, shared information regarding the invitation from Bishop Bruce R. Ough for all Minnesota United Methodists to join him in *Praying Our Way Forward*. This initiative was launched on New Year's Day 2017 with 75 weeks of focused prayer for The United Methodist Church. Each annual conference around the world was asked to spend one week in intentional prayer for the mission of the United Methodist Church and for the work of The Commission on a Way Forward. The Minnesota Conference's week for prayer was Nov. 5-11, 2017. Hjordi led us in an Evening Prayer from the *Praying Our Way Forward* collection written by Minnesota United Methodists.

Minutes from September 2017 were reviewed and approved.

Committee Updates

PPRC – Judy Mahler reported on the following items:

- Pastor's Office: All work has been completed to make the office in WV EUMC fully functional (including new internet service) and to meet Safe Sanctuaries specifications (including a window in the door).
- Parsonage: Energy Efficiency work is done. Per an audit by Centerpoint Energy, the house is 100% efficient.
- Safe Sanctuaries: PPRC work on this project has been rescheduled to 1st Quarter 2018.

Continuing Education (CE) Portion of Pastoral Compensation Package:

Per Conference guidelines, CE budget for a full-time position is \$800 minimum, but \$1,578.50 recommended. Per request of District Superintendent Fred Vanderwerf, the Prairie Lakes Parish had established a CE Budget of \$1,600 to help reimburse Pastor Stephanie's pastoral education. This was to be shared between JJ & Stefanie, with the total split between BGUMC and WV @ \$800 each. Tonight, the council approved (by consensus) an increase in the Prairie Lakes Parish CE amount (for 2018 only) to be \$4,150 (total) to be shared between Pastors JJ & Stefanie, with the total split between BGUMC and WV @ \$2,075 each. The increase was to cover WV and BGUMC portions of the Morgans' Clergy Leadership Academy Educational Trip to England in July, 2018 as outlined below:

- \$1,000 scholarship, each (guaranteed) from the Board of Ministry Leadership Academy (Total of \$2,000)
- \$700 total as down-payment by the Morgans
- \$3,300 from WV and BGUMC @ \$1,650 each
- \$6,000 total

JJ/Stefanie have each applied for an additional scholarship of \$1,200 from Discipleship Ministries, and will learn of the outcome on January 30th. There is a good chance of one or both being recipients. Total cost of trip, and CE Budget, will be reduced by any additional scholarship money received.

Finance:

- Brian Kanne reported on the 2017 contributions from January 1 to current. Our outreach giving has been significant in 3rd and 4th quarter. Brian's report is on file.
- Tracie Spinler reported on recent income/expenses.
- Council reviewed/approved the 2018 Budget. We now incorporated the change in the CE line item. We have resumed budgeting \$1,200 annually for the parsonage fund.
- A portion of BG funds has been transferred to a 6 month CD in order to earn better interest. At the end of 6 months, we can move the money back out of the CD or let it automatically renew.

Education and Events:

- BGUMC is participating in Operation Christmas Child (introduced by the pastors), in which we fill shoeboxes with gifts for children in need. We can also volunteer on Nov. 19th at Hilltop UMC in Mankato to help check in the shoe boxes as area churches drop them off, pack the shoeboxes into shipping cartons, and load them on a semi.
- Sunday School Christmas program is set for Dec. 3rd (first Sunday of Advent) during morning worship. 35 children, youth, and adults had a great time as they gathered at the Brad & Tracie Spinler farm on Sunday, Nov. 5th for the Christmas Program Photo Shoot. Photos will be projected throughout the actual program.
- Adopt a Family: Tracie Spinler volunteered to coordinate our annual Christmas giving to a local family – through the Medford National Honor Society Giving Tree.

Trustees: Nothing new to report

UMW:

- Emma Norton residence is transitioning between lead-organizers. The residence is continuing full steam ahead in its work. Our UMW looks forward to future opportunities in which to be in mission with them.
- As a National Director of the UMW, Cindy Saufferer will attend a November 9th UMW Leadership Development session in St. Louis – at which all National Directors will receive training to facilitate conversations throughout the country regarding the Commission on the Way Forward. The goal is to keep congregations in the loop of the work of the Commission as

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they move through their discernment process. Cindy will provide an update at our February meeting. As a side note, this week, the Commission on the Way Forward is presenting its preliminary report to the Council of Bishops.

Worship:

- Worship Committee will contact Audene Greenwald regarding poinsettias for Christmas – to be in church the 2nd Sunday in December.
- The committee continues its regular planning meetings with the pastors to select hymns for morning worship based on themes the pastors have chosen.

Communications:

- Reminder that JJ & Stefanie set up a BGUMC email address - bloominggroveumc@gmail.com. Any group in the church can use it to send messages.
- Judy Mahler will move the BG Website upgrade project to 2018 – tentatively scheduled for 2nd quarter.

Nominations (Committee on Lay Leadership):

All officer and committee appointments have been graciously filled. The Nominations Committee will send changes to Chery Southworth to update the officer/committee list.

Charge Conference – 11/18/17

Is at Redwood Falls from 10:00 – 3:00 for all churches in the Southern Prairie District, with workshops in the morning and charge conference meeting in the afternoon. Pastors JJ and Stefanie encourage representative from BG to attend. The majority of year-end forms are due in time to be presented at that meeting. Year-End Tables are due at the beginning of 2018 – completed by Brian Kanne, Carolyn Kanne, and Tracie Spinler.

Other Business/Updates

Decorating for Christmas: Sunday, November 26th at 10:30 – small group to put up the backdrop. Wednesday, November 29th at 6:30 – all BG folks gather to decorate the sanctuary.

Sunday, December 24th: 8:30 A.M. Worship = 4th Sunday in Advent. 5:00 P.M. Worship = Christmas Eve.

Updates from JJ Morgan and Stefanie Morgan

- Sunday, December 10th from 2:00 – 5:00 P.M.: Morgan family Open House Christmas Party at the parsonage for WV and BG
- 2018 Leadership Retreat: The council supported the pastors' plans to facilitate a leadership retreat in January or February for all officers and committee members of the Prairie Lakes Parish.
- 2018 Discipleship Plan: Discipleship Ministries of the UMC, and the MN Conference of the UMC request that, during 2018, each church create a life-long plan for discipleship. Implementation of the plan may begin in 2019. The plan will be specific to the ministry context and setting of each congregation – and as a place to start, a small group can review what we are already doing, add to it, as appropriate, and formally name it.

Next Council Meeting:
Tuesday, February 6th at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes submitted by Judy Mahler, Substitute Secretary for Char Frankenberry



UMW Minutes

January 18th, 2018

The UMW met at Theresa's on January 18th. The Secretary's report was accepted as read. A suggestion for a scholarship fundraiser was a tractor run.

April 15th is the date money needs to be at the school for our scholarships. We are proposing three \$300 scholarships.

Char or Theresa will check the website for World Day of Prayer materials and check with Morristown to see if they have anything planned. Char expressed her concern over the lack of officers in the Southern Prairie District.

Upcoming events:

April 22 – Spring Gathering at Lake Crystal

June 13 - Day Apart at Kiester

September 16-Annual Gathering at Redwood Falls.

Our next meeting on March 15 will be at Faye,s. We will invite all the BG women who have helped us throughout the year with their baked goods with a thank you night. We will plan our Easter Breakfast at that meeting.



Update: BGUMC Disaster Relief Mission Offering

In response to the past months' disastrous hurricanes, wildfires, and mudslides that destroyed the lives of so many, members and friends of BGUMC donated \$2,430 to our Disaster Relief Mission Fund, with all proceeds going to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR has now delivered compassionate care and assistance to dozens of disaster-stricken regions of the U.S. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. See below for a brief summary of UMCOR's response (as of 12/4/17) to a few of these events from the recent hurricane season.

- Hurricane Maria Response in Puerto Rico: \$3.8 million in disaster relief and recovery grants. Collected 32,256 hygiene kits, 6,732 cleaning buckets, 11,760 school kits, 3,332 layette kits, 48,960 bottles of water
- Hurricane Harvey Response in Texas and Louisiana: \$2.3 million in disaster relief and recovery grants. Distributed 12,050 cleaning buckets and 5,469 hygiene kits.
- Hurricane Irma Response in Florida: \$1 million in disaster relief and recovery grants. Distributed 5,616 cleaning buckets, 2,688 hygiene kits.

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

February 2018

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Since 1936

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church

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Check us out on Facebook!

**Pastoral Care and Emergency
and General Pastoral Questions:**

Pastor Stefanie Morgan's phone: 507-995-6624

Email: stefaniemorganmt@gmail.com

Pastor JJ Morgan's phone: 507-995-6623

Email: pastorjjmorgan@gmail.com



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Chery Southworth at
cherysouth@gmail.com

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Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday
February 14, 2018
7:30 pm



Ash
Wednesday

**Ash Wednesday; Time to reflect and
share our thanks, for this is the time
that we remember the greatest sacrifice.**