



BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# THE VISITOR

Volume 82, Issue 6

THE TWO STEEPLD CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE

June 2018



In the New Testament book of John in chapter eight, we have the opportunity to listen in on a conversation between Jesus and a crowd of people.

**“<sup>12</sup> Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." <sup>13</sup> The Pharisees replied, "You are making those claims about yourself! Such testimony is not valid." <sup>14</sup> Jesus told them, "These claims are valid even though I make them about myself. For I know where I came from and where I am going, but you don't know this about me. <sup>15</sup> You judge me by human standards, but I do not judge anyone. <sup>16</sup> And if I did, my judgment would be correct in every respect because I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me.”**

As followers of Jesus, we know the Father that Jesus is referring to is God, maker of heaven and earth. It was from the glory and beauty of Heaven that Jesus left to come to earth in order to be with us and to save us. He chose to do that because he loves us so much. He was willing to do anything for us. Even to die on a cross. As people who believe in the resurrection of Jesus, we celebrate the fact that three days after his death, Jesus rose from the dead. Then, he returned to Heaven so that the Holy Spirit could be sent down to earth in order to be present with those who believe in Jesus. We just celebrated that event called Pentecost. Now it is time to live out our faith with the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. One way to do so is to prayerfully remain in tune with God and to pay attention to God's call upon your heart. What is God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit inviting you to do? Have you shared it with someone? Are you able to find time to pray and really listen to what the Triune God has in store for you? Friends, we encourage you to take this time during the month of June to enjoy a rest. And while you are resting, we encourage you to find a prayerful place and focus on listening to what God is inviting you to be a part of in this season. Just like Jesus took pleasure in knowing that The Father who sent him was with him, you too can rejoice because the Holy Spirit was promised to be with you as you live out your faith.




*Pastor JJ Morgan and Pastor Stefanie Morgan*

# Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

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

## June 2018

Blooming Grove  
 Worship ..... 8:30 am

<b>Coding Information</b> GH—Gathering House ODC—Owatonna Detention Center SCDC—Steele County Detention Center RC—Rice County					1	2
					June 2-8 Pastors JJ and Stefanie on a “stay-vacation”.	
					11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC	
					Morristown Dam Days	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
June 2-8 Pastors JJ and Stefanie on a “stay-vacation”. In the event of an emergency or need for pastoral care, you may reach them on their cell phones.						10:00 am Bridal Shower for Lacey Hanson (Alex Spinler) at Church
Morristown Dam Days						11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
Lay-Led Worship Service at BG (Communion will be June 10th)			GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	GH Bible Study/RC jail	Waterville Bullhead Days	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Waterville Bullhead Days			7:00 pm BG Council	Straight River Days (Medford)		
Communion Sunday at BG			GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC			11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Straight River Days (Medford)			6:30 pm BG PPRC Sub-Group at BG			
			GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	GH Bible Study/RC jail	11:30 am GH Worship at SCDC	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Confirmation Sunday at BG						

# The Blooming Grove Visitor

## JUNE CALENDAR

Sunday Morning Worship at 8:30 a.m.

- 3 Sun 8:30 am Lay-Led Worship Service  
 9 Sat 10:00 am Bridal shower for Lacey Hanson  
 (Alex Spinler) at church  
 10 Sun 8:30 am Communion Sunday  
 13 Wed 7:00 pm Ad Council  
 20 Wed 6:30 pm BG PPRC Sub Group at BG  
 24 Sun 8:30 am Confirmation Sunday

### Parament Colors

The parament color for June is Green.

### Cleaning

June 10, June 24 Nancy and Susan

### Happy Birthday

- 1 Deb Brecht  
 3 Michael Kanne  
 4 Shane Yule  
 6 Beth Christesen  
 7 Christ Karsten  
 8 Jenny Nicholson  
 14 Dave Brisel  
 14 Mike Nicholson, Jr.  
 15 Brian Martin  
 18 Sierra Lustig  
 20 Caitlin Needham  
 21 Gil Christesen  
 22 Raelyn Janke  
 23 Dylan Carty  
 28 Klye Lustig  
 29 Lanie Ahlman



### Thank You from Steele County Food Shelf

Please consider this letter a receipt of your contribution of \$533.67 given on April 4<sup>th</sup> 2018. We are very grateful for your generosity. With your gift, along with contributions from people like you, we are able to provide 10-day meal packages to Steele County families living at or below 200% of the Federal poverty guidelines. 7,988 households received a total of 449,284 pounds of food in 2017. We know SCFS will be able to continue this level of support to families needing assistance through 2018 and beyond due to generous donations like yours. (NOTE: BGUMC gifts of \$533.67 were also given to the Waseca County Food Shelf.)



## Treasurer's Report

April 24— May 23, 2018

**General Budget Income** **\$7,778.10**

### Expenses

Pastors Salaries	1,633.81
Electric for parsonage	51.60
Water for Parsonage	44.52
Mileage	35.43
Cable TV	9.97
Continuing Ed	25.00
Health Insurance	627.50
Pension	221.65
Centerpoint Energy	532.88
Cell Phone	35.00
Internet	20.44
MN Annual Conference	250.00
Copier	22.50
Parsonage	100.00
Cleaning	112.00
Worship	28.70
Postage	10.75
Phone	43.80
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 3,305.55</b>

(Net Income: + \$ 4,472.55)

### Other Income Received

Camp Scholarship	1,000.00
Cemetery Mowing	500.00
Love Offering	1,755.00
Restoration	3,500.00

### Readers, Greeters & Treats

- June 3 Reader: Cindy Saufferer & others  
 Greeter & Treats: Dave & Sheryl Brisel  
 June 10 Reader: Hjordi Churchill  
 Greeter & Treats: Chuck & Linda Danks  
 June 17 Reader: Dick Fisher  
 Greeters & Treats: Dick & Trudi Fisher  
 June 24 Readers: Confirmands—Mikayla, Weston,  
 Mason  
 Greeter: Faye Kanne  
 Treats: Education Committee

## June Weddings

- 1 Peter & Lenore Poole  
 2 Brian & Carolyn Kanne  
 11 Ron & Carolyn Engebretson  
 14 Robert & Sharon Nelson  
 17 David & Sheryl Brisel

# The Blooming Grove Visitor



Please keep the following people in your prayers.

- Kaitlyn, Kristin Krell's friend, who began bed-rest at Methodist Hospital, Rochester, at 24 weeks to help bring her as close to a full-term pregnancy as possible. Also pray for her husband, Jason, and her little one, waiting to be born.
- Melvin Kuball, farming friend of Marlis Mahler, as he continues his recovery from a massive heart attack and surgery.
- Kim Kuball (daughter-in-law of Melvin), as she works through difficult recovery from complex surgery to repair her crushed ankle, the result of a head-on car crash in the heavy snow of April.
- Teri, friend of Dick Fisher, from Utah (has visited us here at BGUMC), as she battles Stage 4 cancer.
- Traveling mercies to all in our congregation who are "on the road" and "in the air" on summer adventures!
- John Saufferer, uncle of Judy Mahler, as he recovers from heart surgery.
- Deanna, friend of Hjordi Churchill and Carolyn Kanne, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Our college seniors – in their search for jobs.
- Our college and high school students as they continue their studies and their "earning power" in various roles over the summer.
- Shelba Reinecke, church neighbor, as she celebrates the message of "cancer free" after battling an aggressive cancer.
- Nicholas, oldest grandson of Chuck and Linda Danks, as he travels home from his studies in the Netherlands.
- Cindy Saufferer's mother, Marge, of Kansas, as she undergoes tests for heart concerns that are causing significant weakness.
- Tracie Spinler's friend Leigh, and her husband, as they begin the journey of her husband's diagnosis of bone cancer.
- The daughter (early 20's) of a friend of Tracie Spinler, diagnosed with thyroid cancer.
- Trudi Remund-Fisher's cousin Leslie, from Stillwater, who, at age 56, is battling cancer, and making the most of every moment of life by traveling to Egypt.
- Theresa Riecke, as she continues medical testing for ongoing headaches.
- Pastor JJ Morgan's brother-in-law, Dave, as he mourns the death of his father.
- The family of Nate, a young man from Mankato, who died unexpectedly, leaving two young children behind.
- The family, friends, and co-workers of Paul Droher, who worked with several from BGUMC at Federated Insurance. Paul died unexpectedly while on business in London.
- A high school friend of Faye Kanne, who is suffering from deep depression.
- The son of Tracie Spinler's friend Wendy, who has entered a drug rehabilitation program.
- Brad Saufferer's co-worker, Mark, who is hospitalized with a blood disease.
- Families and friends of all of the young people killed or injured in recent school shootings – and our country, as we wrestle with all aspects of mass shootings and possible ways to prevent them.
- Christopher, son of Carolyn Kanne's nephew, hospitalized for a 2<sup>nd</sup> time with meningitis.
- Berlyn Staska, long-time friend of Brian Kanne – and co-instrumentalist in the Owatonna Community Band – as he celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and continues to play his trumpet!
- Prayers of congratulations to Tyler, Dave and Sheryl Brisel's grandson, graduating from Wabasso High School, and to Annika, Marlis Mahler's niece, graduating from High School in Fort Collins, CO.
- Leaders of our country and 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.

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



Dear BGUMC:

We do remember the two-steeple church and the article in Country Living. Remembering that makes the shawl even more precious.

Thank you for sharing your love and prayers with and for us.

Love, Wally & Teri Smith

Thank you from Melvin Kuball for the prayer shawl that we blessed for him after his massive heart attack, and our ongoing prayers that are helping restore him to health and bringing him the gift of life.

Note from Lucile Wattermann: How special it was to receive the prayer shawl. I am thankful for your prayers as I was recovering from open-heart surgery. I go to cardiac rehab each week and am feeling stronger each day. Thanks to those involved with the prayer shawl ministry who share their special handiwork talent. The shawl provided just the right amount of warmth when I needed it. May the Lord continue to bless this wonderful expression of Christian love and caring.

# The Blooming Grove Visitor

*With Sympathy*

**Harley Gene Karsten**, 79, of Lubbock, TX, passed away April 25th. Harley was born in Deerfield, MN to Harold and Candace Karsten. He was preceded in death by his wife (Sue), his parents, brothers Donald, Richard, Jack and Marvin, one son Mark, and grandson Brandon. He is survived by his brother Steve, five children, Julie Carrillo, Debbie (Lonnie) Mullenax, Jeff (Mary) Karsten, Donna Ring, and Mike Karsten.



**Arthur Hecht**, 67, of Waseca died on May 3rd. He was the son of Maurice and Norma (Draheim) Hecht. He graduated from Waseca High School and attended the University of Minnesota before enlisting in the US Navy. After his military service he attended vocational school at both Mankato Vo-Tech and Faribault Vo-Tech where he studied automotive and small engine repair as well as bookkeeping. His passion was collecting old cars. Arthur was diagnosed with spinal bulbar muscular atrophy (SBMA), commonly known as Kennedy's Disease and had to retire early. He is survived by two brothers, Earl (Linda) of Blackduck, MN, and Chris (Kate) of Boise ID. Graveside services will be held at Immanuel Cemetery at a later date.



**Eugene "Gene" Morris**, 85, passed away May 4th. Gene was a lifetime neighbor of Blooming Grove farming just NW of the church. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Helen, and three sons: Dan (Nancy), Mark (Barb), and Dave (Cathy). He was an active member of Peace United Methodist Church in Morristown and a 4-H leader for 13 years.

**Cheryl Bartosch**, 65, of Deerfield Township (neighbor to Carol Karsten), passed away May 20th. Funeral arrangements are pending at the Medford Funeral Home. Cheryl is survived by sons Todd and Jeffrey (Elizabeth nee Elstad). Her husband, Gary, preceded her in death on October 21, 2017.

**Patrick Brady**, 70, lifelong resident of Deerfield Township (also a neighbor of Carol Karsten), passed away on May 22nd. Pat was the son of James and Evelyn (Maas) Brady. He attended Medford High School and graduated from the Southern School of Agriculture in Waseca. He worked on the family farm and later worked for several construction companies. He was a member of Corpus Christi Catholic Church. He is survived by four children, Brent, Marissa (Mike) Ewert, Kristin (Travis) Gunsolus, Brandon (Renee Scheier); siblings Carolyn (Lee) Hoffman, Dennis (Terry), and James (Judy).



## UMW MINUTES



The UMW met at Char's on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Faye had the lesson. The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer reported there is \$165.00 remaining in the Scholarship Fund and \$913.56 in the General Budget.

Sixty-three persons were served at the Easter Breakfast this year.

The shower for Lacey will be June 9<sup>th</sup>. Marlis, Chery, Kari and Sue are on the committee.

There is still time to sign-up for Mission U and Mission U Two July 13-15 and July 28 respectively.

Maternal and Child Health was made the district's Social Justice Priority for 2018-2019 at Spring Gathering.

The scarf project was introduced. The Dakotas and Minnesota Conference are inviting all churches that have prayer shawl groups to help knit or crochet 10,000 purple scarves to be worn by every delegate, dignitary, bishop and spouse during the 2020 General Conference in Minnesota. All scarves must be Viking or Prince purple. Faye will pass on the information to the group after worship on Sunday.

The Tractor Pull and Run for the Loaves will be September 9<sup>th</sup>. Food needs will be discussed following worship closer to the date.

Tracie will renew our subscription to the Upper Room.

The next meeting will be at Carolyn's. We need someone for the lesson.

**Theresa and Carolyn presented three \$300.00 scholarships to Medford graduates May 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



L to R: Carolyn Kanne, Jasmine Panos, Jenna McCarthy, Madelyn Cloutier, Theresa Riecke

**Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
8th Annual "Fit for Britt" Walk/Run  
1:00 – 3:00 P.M.  
Meet at Shager Park, in Faribault**

This event is to remember Brittney Landsverk, niece of Karrie and Cris VanZuilen, promote healthy lifestyles, and is a reminder to stay safe – don't drive drunk or be distracted while driving. Any donations collected will go to MADD.

# Prairie Lakes Parish Activities



## “God is a Verb - And so Are We” Sunday, June 3rd Second Sunday after Pentecost Worship Service led by Members of BGUMC

We invite you to join us at 8:30 A.M. worship on Sunday, June 3rd for a service created by the BGUMC Worship Team. It will be 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. In the spirit of our theme for the day, “God is a Verb - And So Are We”, we will share stories and sing hymns of God’s Love in Action.

Our youth will lead us in celebration and blessing of the \$1,810 collected during our May Love Offering for Missions! Watch for a giant pinwheel spinning next to the pulpit and help us as we blow on all of the sparkling pinwheels hanging throughout the sanctuary to bless our Love Offering gifts, and their recipients. Listen to the whirr of the wind as we celebrate the spirit of God blowing through our lives, our hands, and our feet to help others! To draw us further into our theme, Cindy Saufferer will share stories of love in action from the MN Annual Conference and from the Global UMW Assembly.

Come celebrate with us! We hope to see you there!



## Camping Anyone?

The MN Annual Conference of the UMC offers many camping opportunities and adventures for campers of all ages and at three great locations. If you or someone you know is looking for something fun and new to do this summer, check out the following: Kowakan Adventures in the Boundary Waters area, Northern Pines Camp in Park Rapids, Koronis Ministries at Paynesville.

For more information, check out these websites: [kowakanadventures.org](http://kowakanadventures.org), [northernpinescamp.org](http://northernpinescamp.org) and [koronisministries.org](http://koronisministries.org).

## BGUMC Pentecost Mission Project Pin Wheels for Pentecost!

With gratitude, we thank everyone who supported our May Love Offering for Missions through their gifts of money and their prayers, resulting in a final tally of \$1,810.00! Our delegate to the MN UMC Annual Conference Session will deliver this gift at their gathering on May 29<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup> in St. Cloud. Your kindness helped to put God’s love into action. The funds will be divided as follows:

- 65% to Puerto Rico Hurricane “Volunteer in Mission” Recovery Trips, sponsored by the MN UMC Conference, beginning this fall.
- 20% to Park Ave. UMC, Minneapolis, in support of their Freedom Schools Program, a six-week summer day camp experience for children.
- 15% to NUMAS Haus, a program that provides emergency shelter and support services to homeless single women and their children in New Ulm and surrounding Brown County.

Our Sunday School children had set a goal that we try to raise \$1,000, and for every \$20 raised, we would attach a pinwheel to the end of a pew or communion rail spindle, or candelabra post. If we filled all of those 50 spots (the kids counted several times!), we would reach \$1,000! What a blessing to run out of pinwheels and to have to increase the value of each to match our total offering.



# The Blooming Grove Visitor

## Blooming Grove UMC Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2018

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

Chair Hjordi welcomed the Council and opened the meeting with a scripture reading from Colossians, Chapter 2.

### Minutes from February 6, 2018

Minutes were reviewed and approved.

### Updates – Life of the Church

- **Lent/Easter BGUMC Food Shelf Mission Offering** totaled \$1,067.35 + matching funds from MN Food Share
- **Lent/Easter Book Study:** 8 persons from BGUMC gathered on Sunday mornings for lively conversation about the MN UMC Conference book study - “Surprise the World” by Michael Frost.
- **Lenten Combined Choir:** 15 people from BGUMC and Waterville EUMC rehearsed together on Wednesdays throughout Lent to create music for Palm Sunday (both churches), Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday.
- **March Men’s Pancake Breakfast:** The men of the church served approximately 45 guests. \$568 was raised, with proceeds split between local food shelves and the BGUMC handicap accessibility project. 8 men, plus our three confirmation students served as cooks and hosts.
- **UMW Thank You Night at their March Meeting:** The UMW invited all persons from BGUMC who helped throughout the year with their baked goods to attend their March meeting as a “Thank You” night.
- **Good Friday and Easter Sunday:** Thank you to Pastors JJ and Stefanie for creating the Tenebrae Service for Good Friday and to the 7 people who shared in leading the lessons of darkening shadows. On Easter Sunday, approximately 75 people gathered for worship and approximately 63 people joined in fellowship over our Easter Breakfast, hosted by the UMW.
- **April Rally to End Racism – Washington D.C.:** Cindy Saufferer joined the bus group sponsored by the Wisconsin Annual Conference of the UMC to attend the Rally to End Racism in Washington D.C. The rally was organized by the National Council of Churches to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to bring people together re-commit to the goal of ending racism.
- **April 8<sup>th</sup> – Lay Led Worship Service – Act Justly, Love Mercy, Walk Humbly:** Thank you to the BGUMC Worship Team for creating this worship service and for the 10 people who joined voices in leading our liturgy and message. The service was shared, in part, to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to remind us of our calling to continue to carry forth

his message of equality, justice, mercy, and inclusion for all.

### BGUMC Guiding Principles/Who Are We and What Do We Offer – as found on our Website

At our February meeting, Hjordi led us in a review of our **BGUMC Guiding Principles**. Hjordi had asked for everyone to spend some time thinking about them in the context of . . . “How are they still relevant?” and “How do we continue to ‘put hands and feet’ to them?” Upon reflection, the Council affirmed that our guiding principles continue to accurately represent who we are as a congregation and our faith focus. Examples were shared regarding how we currently put hands and feet to the Guiding Principles. Based on the positive response to the small group experiences of the Lent/Easter Book study and the Holy Week Choir, it was suggested that we continue to look for ways to create small group opportunities in the future. We explored several ideas for re-introducing the Guiding Principles to the congregation:

- Lift them up to the congregation on a Sunday morning. (Hjordi)
- Publish them in a future edition of our newsletter. (Chery/Judy)
- Interview persons from the congregation over the summer to gather their thoughts – and what the Guiding Principles mean to them – and incorporate answers in a litany and service of celebration in the fall.

### Discipleship Plan Team Update

Hjordi provided a list of volunteers who will be part of the committee that will respond to the MN Conference expectation that each church lay out a plan to answer the question “What are we doing to build Disciples?”. She will also make an announcement in church to invite anyone else from the congregation who may be interested. Hjordi will coordinate meeting dates – with kick-off tentatively scheduled for June. Volunteers: Hjordi Churchill (Council Chair), Cindy Saufferer (PPRC), Patti Ellingson (Education Committee), Marlis Mahler (Sunday School Teacher), Carolyn Kanne (Worship Team), Theresa Riecke (UMW), Judy Mahler (Communications Team).

### Outreach Update – Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

Emily Knudsen, of the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm in Blooming Grove Township has invited BGUMC to hold a summer morning worship service at their Pizza Farm, for members of BGUMC as well as anyone in the community who would like to attend. The Pizza Farm would advertise the event in their summer schedule and would include a noon-time non-profit fund-raiser special on pizzas – for an organization that BG would choose with them (i.e. Waseca County Food Shelf). Cindy Saufferer and Judy Mahler have been doing some pre-work on the event. The council approved the following:

- Date: Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – with preferred start time at 10:30 A.M. Members of the congregation will also be stationed at church to direct anyone to the Pizza

# The Blooming Grove Visitor

Farm, in the event that they were unaware of this event.

- Special Music Group to help lead the service: Lyndy Zabel, Director of Missional Impact for the Minnesota Annual Conference, and World Beat Connection. World Beat Connection is a ministry of the MN UMC Annual Conference. This group ministers through music in Minnesota, the Caribbean, and Latin America by blending styles from a variety of cultural, ethnic, and geographical backgrounds. Concerts are given by vocalists and instrumentalists in Minnesota who volunteer their time to raise money for United Methodist and other charities. 3-6 members of the group will be available for our event.
- Donation of \$150 - \$200 to the music group: to help defray cost of mileage and meals. They give away any excess proceeds.
- Committee to work with the Pizza Farm and World Beat Connection: Cindy Saufferer, Tracie Spinler, Marlis Mahler, Judy Mahler. They will also work with the Pizza Farm to determine a local (Waseca County) non-profit organization to receive donations from the event. Committee work will begin in June.
- Judy will contact Emily Knudsen and Lyndy Zabel to confirm date and time.

## **Outreach Update – Vacation Bible School and/or Day Camp with Good Earth Village**

Per our February meeting, Judy Mahler contacted Good Earth Village – an ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) Bible Camp just outside of Spring Valley, MN, and learned that they still include day camps at local churches as part of their summer programming. (We co-lead VBS at BGUMC with them a number of years ago.) The GEV summer Day Camp schedule is already quite booked for 2018. We can begin inquiring about 2019 availability in November 2018. They provide staff at a ratio of 1 staff member per 8 children. They offer full day programs, Monday through Friday noon, with special events in the afternoons, such as Olympics, Art Project, Mission Projects, etc. @ 32 campers and 4 staff people, cost would be \$1,950 for a week. We also would need to provide housing and meals. GEV may be able to be flexible in considering optional schedules, such as Sunday evening through Wednesday evening.

- The Education Committee will take this information into consideration at their April meeting.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Approved as provided. Copies are attached with the minutes. As an FYI, the Video License is shared with WV EUMC through our Prairie Lakes Parish Account.

## **Committee Updates**

**Finance:** No Updates

## **PPRC**

PPRC began work on implementation of the Safe Sanctuaries program at BGUMC by reviewing the MN Annual

Conference guidelines and suggestions for work with Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults. The group will continue this work this summer, inviting input from the Education Committee. Tentative Goal: implementation by the start of Fall Programming.

**Education Committee** will be meeting in April. Topics

- Celebration Sunday for high school and college graduates, 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles, and Sunday School Teacher and Volunteer Recognition
- Safe Sanctuaries (to work on with PPRC)
- Confirmation Sunday
- Vacation Bible School and/or other Intergenerational Summer Events

## **Trustees**

- The Trustees will contract lawn mowing with D&D of Owatonna.
- Brad Spinler presented an initial draft of a building addition blueprint for conversation. It is handicap accessible and includes a fellowship hall, bathrooms, food preparation area, and a lift to the sanctuary – as well as stairs to the sanctuary. It could be built in one phase or two phases. There was consensus among Council members that the trustees can obtain bids from several contractors for the building, plumbing, and electrical work – as a place to start for future conversation, brainstorming, and “next steps” by the Council.

## **UMW**

- Held March UMW Thank –You meeting and hosted the Easter Breakfast.
- In May, will give out three scholarships to Medford High School seniors @ \$300 each. Scholarship criteria is based primarily on community service and academic achievement.

**Worship Committee** has made plans through Pentecost. They meet in May to make plans through September.

**Communications:** The Ezekiel platform that powers the BGUMC's website has improved considerably in its stability, so the need to implement an upgrade to the website is now of lower priority than other items before us. This project has been moved the back burner until there is a suitable amount of time available to tackle it.

**Membership:** Plan is to complete an audit of our membership list before next Charge Conference (fall 2018). Carolyn Kanne will organize this project. The Council suggested that the audit team should also include Brian Kanne (finance), Chery Southworth (communication coordinator), and Judy Mahler (communication team).

## **Minnesota Annual Conference: May 30 – June 1, St. Cloud: Discover Joy, Live Deeply**

Cindy Saufferer, BGUMC Lay Delegate, and Pastors JJ and Stefanie will be attending.



# The Blooming Grove Visitor

## Pentecost Special Offering

The Council agreed that our BGUMC special offering for the Pentecost Season will be the Annual Conference Love Offering. 65% goes to Puerto Rico Hurricane MN Annual Conference Volunteer in Mission Recovery Trips. Love Offering funds will be used primarily for supplies. 20% goes to the Park Avenue UMC Children's Defense Fund "Freedom Schools Program". 15% goes to the NUMAS Haus that provides emergency shelter and support services to homeless single women and their children in New Ulm and surrounding Brown County. We will collect this offering from April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 27<sup>th</sup>.

## Updates from Pastors JJ and Stefanie

- Sunday Morning Sign-In: Pastors have requested that we consider some type of Sunday morning "sign-in" to help them stay better informed of who is in church each Sunday, who our guests are, and who may have requests for pastoral care. From this information, they send cards of greeting to guests and/or reach out to persons, as needed. Consensus was that Stefanie would look into options, including pew pads, and bring samples/ideas back to the Council.
- Plan for Fire and Medical Emergency: Pastors recommend that the church have plans in place for emergencies, including Fire and Medical, and that we consider having an AED Machine on-site. Consensus was that a good place to start is an AED Machine. Tracie Spinler volunteered to look into this and will ask Chery Southworth about any memorial funds that may be available.
- Tax Exempt #: We need to update our Tax Exempt # to be current with new state filings. Brian Kanne will check into this.

## Metric Reporting for Conference

The MN Conference updated the automated system for metric reporting, including weekly worship attendance, Sunday School attendance, small group attendance, etc. It also includes monthly reporting regarding ways in which each church is impacting its community. Marlis Mahler will take the lead on this reporting – and will be assisted by Judy Mahler. We can use newsletter stories for the monthly reports.

## Upcoming Events

- Many events for which scheduling will take place in the next month.
- June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 A.M. – Bridal Shower for Lacey Hanson (Alex Spinler) at church
- July 14-16: UMW Mission University
- Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>: BGUMC leads morning worship at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm – with music provided by Lyndy Zabel and World Beat Connection
- First Weekend in August – Remembrance Gathering for Marvin and Ardis Sutter
- Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: Run for the Loaves and Tractor Pull
- Saturday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>: Hanson/Spinler Wedding

Next meeting on Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.

Submitted by Judy Mahler, Substitute Secretary

## May 20<sup>th</sup> - Celebration Sunday!

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup> was our last day of Sunday school and a time to celebrate the following people in our midst:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> graders: Summer Goldsmith and Raelyn Janke, with their very own Bibles.
- High School Graduate: Alex Martin
- Post-Secondary Graduates: Olivia Full, Emily Nagel, and Luke VanZuilen.
- Faithful S.S. Teachers/Leaders: Karrie VanZuilen, Marlis Mahler, Mike Nicholson, Brad Saufferer, Patti Ellingson (also our music leader).
- Substitute Teachers: Beth Christesen, Judy Mahler, Cindy Saufferer
- Musicians: Faye Kanne, Judy Mahler, Chery Southworth

We also celebrated Pentecost that day, with the sanctuary decorated in reds and oranges, pinwheels spinning throughout the congregation, and fellowship and treats after the service, including Pentecost cookies made by Pastor Stefanie!



## Save the Date: July, August, September!

**July 14-16**  
UMW Mission University

### **Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

BGUMC leads morning worship at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm in Blooming Grove Township, with music provided by Lyndy Zabel and World Beat Connection (more info in the July Visitor)

### **Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup>**

Remembrance Gathering for Marvin & Ardis Sutter

### **Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

BGUMC Run 4 the Loaves and Tractor Pull

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June 2018

**The • Blooming • Grove • Visitor**

*Since 1936*

**Blooming Grove United Methodist Church**

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*Confirmation  
Sunday*

**Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>  
Confirmation Sunday  
at BGUMC**

Join us at 8:30 A.M. worship as we celebrate our three students who will be confirmed:

Mason Nagel, son of James and Kris Nagel.

Mikayla Janke, daughter of Michael and Allison Janke.

Weston Janke, son on Michael and Allison Janke.

The students are working together with their teacher (Brad Saufferer), members of the BGUMC Worship team, and the pastors to create and lead their service. This will be one more chapter in the on-going story of these students and their creative involvement with BGUMC in leadership and service roles. We look forward to the message that they will share through word, song, and scripture.

Let us gather together in community that day to shower these young people with our blessings!