



THE VISITOR

Scripture Readers Greeters & Treats

- Oct 1 Reader: Zoey Morgan
Greeters: Jake & Summer Goldsmith
Treats: Carolyn Kanne
- Oct 8 Reader: Theresa Riecke
Greeters: Theresa & Amanda Riecke
Treats: Tracie Spinler
- Oct 15 Reader: Linda Danks
Greeters & Treats: Dave & Sheryl Brisel
- Oct 22 Reader: Char Frankenberry
Greeters & Treats: Chuck & Linda Danks
- Oct 29 Reader: Hjordi Churchill
Greeters & Treats: Cris & Karrie VanZuilen

them to UMCOR's various designations, including assistance for victims of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, victims of the wildfires out west, and victims of the torrential rains and deadly mudslides and flooding near Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa. As we learn more of UMCOR's response to the needs of the earthquake victims in Mexico, we may also include that disaster response in the distribution.

If you wish to give to a specific geographical area, please include the fund # in your check memo:

- Domestic Disaster Response Advance #901670: Assists victims of recent disasters taking place in the United States.
- International Disaster Response Advance #982450: Assists International Victims of disasters, i.e. Sierra Leone and Mexico.

When UMCOR donors give their time, money, and supplies, they join UMCOR as the hands and feet of Christ. See www.umcor.org for more information. Thank you for sharing Christ's love with the world.

Fall & Christmas Giving: BGUMC Disaster Relief Mission Fund



In response to the past months' disastrous hurricanes, wildfires, mudslides, and earthquakes that have destroyed the lives of so many in the USA and abroad, BGUMC has established a Disaster Relief Mission Fund to which we may contribute from now through December 31st. All proceeds will go to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). UMCOR spends 100% of designated donations on the projects that donors specify. (A separate grant fund covers all administrative costs.) UMCOR funds are distributed to local agencies and local UMC conferences to use in ways that they best see fit, given their hands-on knowledge of the circumstances and needs.

If you wish to donate to help those affected by these recent disasters, please write a check to BGUMC and note "UMCOR" in the memo line. We will equally divide up all donations and send

BGUMC Email Address



We now have a permanent email address specific to BGUMC: bloomingtonumc@gmail.com.

Currently, Pastors JJ and Stefanie will check for incoming messages. Any group in the church can use it to send messages.

*****SAVE THE DATE*****

The Sunday School /Youth Christmas Program this year will be held on **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD**. It will again be held as a part of the Sunday morning worship service.

Prairie Lakes Parish Activities

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

October 2017

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

1	2	3	4 5:30 pm WV Faith Formation GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	5	6	7 4-7 pm WV Chicken & Biscuit Supper 11:30 am GH Wor- ship at SCDC
8 6 pm WV Called In	9 6:30 pm WV Ad Council 	10	11 5:30 pm WV Faith Formation 5-6:30 pm WV Spaghetti Supper GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	12 5:30-7:30 pm Emma Norton Victory for Voices GH Bible Study/RC jail	13	14 11:30 am GH Wor- ship at SCDC
15	16 	17	18 GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	19	20	21 11:30 am GH Wor- ship at SCDC
Pastors JJ & Stefanie on Vacation						
22 No Sunday School in WV Pastor Sharon Nelson leads BG worship Pastors JJ & Stefanie on Vacation	23	24	25 5:30 pm WV Faith Formation GH 1:30 pm Arts at ODC	26 GH Bible Study/RC jail	27	28 9 am—5 pm Emma Norton Orange Door Day 11:30 am GH Wor- ship at SCDC
29	30 6:30 pm PPRC Meet- ing at BG	31  Halloween			Coding Information GH—Gathering House ODC—Owatonna Detention Center SCDC—Steele County Deten- tion Center RC—Rice County	

The Blooming Grove Visitor



My mother recently gave me a gift. It was not the actual physical item that she gave me which brought me joy. Rather, it was the memories attached to that physical gift. My mother gave me the board game “Risk.” It was the same board game that I used to play on with my dad growing up; only it smelled old and musty because no one had played it for years. The memories that it generated, however, were alive and vibrant. They included hours of laughter, strategizing, some tears, and colorful conversation. I admit that I lost most of the games I played as a kid. But it was not the game, it was a special time and opportunity to grow in my relationship with my dad that I will hold close to me forever.

Something even more special to me now that I am a dad is that I get to play this game with my kids and do the same things with them. In fact, just 2 days after my mom gave me the board game, we set it up and began the joy of playing the game together as a family, just me and the three kids. Incidentally, it has been on our game table now for a week and each night we get a chance to play a little while together.

So, what if we gamified our faith? According to Wikipedia gamification is “the application of game-design elements and game principles in nongame contexts.” A current area that you can see this lived out is the area of fitness. The Minnesota Annual Conference of United Methodists currently encourages all clergy to be a part of a wellness program that relies on a “FitBit” which records a person’s steps and after so many steps a person wins virtual “prizes.” Pastor Stefanie and I both regularly compete in health games with each other and with others throughout the conference as we intentionally work on being healthy.

The gamification of faith is not a new concept. In fact, throughout the New Testament, the disciple Paul often used athletic metaphors to convey aspects of faith. Throughout his writings, he offers these insights:

“And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain”

Phillippians 2:16.

“I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain.”

Galatians 2:2.

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

2 Timothy 4:7.

“And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Hebrews 12:1b

In being intentional about our faith, we need to regularly practice our faith just like athletes practice before their various games. Aspiritual practice moves a person along a path towards a goal, and our ultimate goal is union with God. Much like an athlete or gamer, the more a Christian practices their faith, the stronger they become. Some of the ways we can practice our faith include these spiritual practices: reading scripture, praying, tithing, taking Holy Communion as often as possible, fasting, and worshiping God. This list is not exhaustive, but it does contain ways in which to keep your faith lively and vibrant.

I encourage each of us to find a way to practice our faith so that we can grow in confidence and strength. Our faith in God is ours to attend to. The best way to ensure that your faith remains healthy and does not get old and musty is to risk practicing our faith regularly. The rewards are eternal.

Blessings,

Pastor JJ and Pastor Stefanie

The Blooming Grove Visitor

OCTOBER CALENDAR

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

12 Thurs 5:30-7:30 pm Emma Norton Voices for Victory
28 Sat 9 am-5 pm Emma Norton Orange Door Day
30 Mon 6:30 pm PPRC meeting at BG

Parament Colors

The parament color for October is green.

Cleaning

October 8 Nancy and Susan
October 22 Nancy and Susan

Happy Birthday

3 Elenora Christesen
4 Cody Blake
4 Andrew Engebretson
5 Ashley Pitzer
6 Tyler Jesse
9 Karen LaFond
12 Chery Southworth
16 Margaret Bock
19 George Sharp
26 Bruce Saufferer



Happy Anniversary

5 JJ & Stefanie Morgan
10 Deecy & Bob Jesse
19 Brian & Katie Martin

Cemetery Mowing Fund

Many of us have beloved ancestors buried in the two cemeteries tied to BGUMC...the Immanuel cemetery, located at the original site of the Immanuel (south) portion of BGUMC, and the Bethel cemetery, located at the original site of the Bethel (north) portion of BGUMC. BGUMC coordinates the "contract mowing" for both cemeteries, and would appreciate your ongoing support to help keep both sites in good shape. Please consider making a donation to the cemetery mowing fund by making a check payable to BGUMC, with the notation "cemetery mowing" in the memo line. Thank you.



Treasurer Report

August 25—September 26, 2017

Income

General Budget \$5,237.20

Expenses

Salary 1,693.90
Electric for parsonage 123.29
Mileage 161.03
Water for Parsonage 63.33
Health Insurance 627.88
Pension 221.63
Cable TV 12.47
Centerpoint Energy 14.92
Cell Phone 35.00
Internet 19.60
Lawn Mowing 1,210.00
Cleaning 208.00
Copier 22.50
Excel Energy 91.66
Parsonage 100.00
Phone 89.26
Postage 24.50
Worship 31.75
Sunday School 499.84 Total

Expenses \$ 5,250.56

(Net Income: – \$13.36)

Other Income Received

Cemetery Mowing 200.00
Restoration 1,000.00
Run for the Loaves 1,823.75
Tractor Pull 815.00
UMCOR 775.00
UMCOR 901670 150.00
UMCOR Africa 35.00
UMCOR Texas 55.00

Congratulations

Congratulations to Eleanor Saufferer as she celebrates the birth of her 10th great-grandbaby – Quinn, born to Joel and Katie Adams, of Owatonna, on September 23!



The Blooming Grove Visitor

Please remember the following people in your thoughts and prayers.



- The family and community of Wayzata, as they mourn the death of Officer Matthews.
- Kate, teenage niece of a friend of Marlis Mahler, from Colorado, who is undergoing testing and treatment for two brain tumors.
- Persons in the US and around the world whose homes, belongings, livelihood, and family members have been lost to natural disasters of Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, wildfires out West, the earthquake in Mexico, and the flooding and mudslides in Sierra Leone. In particular, remember Char Frankenberry's nephew in Miami and Trudi Remund-Fisher's friends in the wildfires in Oregon.
- Martha, sister of Linda Danks, as she undergoes treatment for cancer. Also pray for Martha's family as they look for best ways to help.
- Jan, the owner of Penny the Therapy Dog at Wilson Elementary in Owatonna. Jan's cancer returned this summer and she is currently undergoing treatment.
- Our Sunday School teachers, helpers, our Confirmation teachers, and the Education Committee in all of their committed work for the children and youth of our congregation. May we be open to offering ourselves to help in any way needed as we create a faith family for our young people.
- Brad Spinler's friend, Brad Krause, from Waseca, as they re-double efforts to find his brother, Jerry Krause, a missionary pilot who was kidnapped and thought to have lost his life. There is now hope that he may be held as a hostage in Africa, and many prayers are needed to move governmental wheels to obtain the help needed for his release.
- The family of Clare Karsten, who gathered at the Bethel Cemetery (at BGUMC) on Saturday, September 9th, for a memorial service for their father. Clare was raised as a child of BGUMC and later served as a United Methodist minister in the Minnesota Conference.
- Karrie VanZuilen as she starts her new job in the Northfield Public Schools with children who have special needs.
- Owen Nagel, the father of James Nagel, who has begun Hospice Care.

- Arianna and her family as they care for their tiny new baby girl, hospitalized in the Twin Cities, with critical medical conditions.
- Carol Karsten's son, Jim, who is undergoing rotator cuff surgery on October 2nd and who will undergo a long recovery and rehabilitation.
- Mitch Dinse, college-aged son of a co-worker of Marlis Mahler. Mitch has had a long battle with Crohn's Disease, and is no longer responding to the medication regime. Please pray for Mitch, and his mom Marsha, father, Mike, and sister, Mikayla, as they walk together in the days ahead of new tests and next steps.
- Leslie, daughter of Trudi Remund-Fisher's cousin Bonnie. Leslie's cancer has returned.
- Prayers for Jerry and Linda Morgan. Upon surgery for a stent placement in Mankato, Jerry suffered a heart attack. He is now in Rochester, and has undergone additional and difficult heart surgery, with a long recovery ahead.
- 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.



THANKS

The Sutters would like to spread our heartfelt gratitude among the entire Blooming Grove congregation and community for all your love and support through our challenges this year. Ardis' memorial was a marvelous tribute; Marvin feels the blessings sent in his prayer shawl with each use; Jan continues through chemo with the encouragement of your positive energies.

Marvin, Jan, Ben

If anyone wants to send greetings to Marvin, his new address is:

1605 N 17th Street
Boise, ID 83702

Run For The Loaves Registration Form

Blooming Grove UMC Church Council Meeting September 6, 2017



Church Committees

Chair Hjordi Churchill called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm by reading a Scripture passage from Ephesians 3:14-19. She welcomed our new Pastors – Pastor JJ and Pastor Stefanie Morgan.

Committee Updates

Finance:

Tracie Spinler reported on our income and expenses from June 14 – September 6, 2017. We had more income than expenses. Brian Kanne reported on the 2017 contributions from January 1 to September 3. Both reports are on file. 2018 Budget is due by 11/1/2017, prior to Charge Conference. Hjordi will arrange for a meeting of the finance committee.

PPRC – Judy Mahler reported on a number of items:

- Both Pastor JJ and Pastor Stefanie are attending Leadership Academy (3 year program required of new pastors). It meets every other month on Thursday and Friday. JJ is in his last year and Stefanie is just beginning. Stefanie will also begin “Course of Study” in the future. The majority of our BG continuing education budget will go toward Pastor Stefanie’s ongoing training.
- The Morgans will be on vacation Oct 16 – 22. JJ and Stefanie are arranging for an emergency contact back-up. Pastor Sharon Nelson will serve as pulpit supply.
- JJ will be helping to lead the Men’s Walk to Emmaus on Nov 10-12 in Mankato.
- Parsonage Update: Re-grading by the tuck-under door to prevent leakage needs to be done. Also will need a new tuck-under garage door. Future projects: Address support beams in tuck-under garage. Replace failing tile in master bathroom.
- Pastor’s Office in WV EUMC was not used by former pastors. The room needs to be cleared out and an actual office made, including office furniture and an office door with a window. In addition, the current Internet contract with Hughes needs to be cancelled as it is unreliable and has limited usage minutes – cancellation cost is prorated at \$200. The total cost of the office project is estimated to be somewhere around \$850, which PPRC recommends to be split between the 2 churches. PPRC recommends also that the two churches split the cost of the new internet service (Frontier phone line modem hookup) @ \$49/month, as its primary purpose is now pastor

use, rather than WV congregation use. Both costs approved by consensus. PPRC recommends that both Churches will be enrolled in the United Methodist Safe Sanctuaries training. Its purpose is to make congregations safe places for children, youth, and our elders. It includes a two-hour on-line course and background checks for all church volunteers. PPRC will work on setting up this program with the assistance of Pastor JJ and Stefanie, including creating a Safe Sanctuaries account through which volunteers can take their training and complete background checks. More info will be provided at our next meeting.

Education and Events:

- Program options for our youth: Pastor JJ will be attending a Young Life meeting in either Medford or Owatonna in the coming months and will invite BG youth/adults to attend with him in order to get a sense of the program and determine if it is something that BG would like to be involved in. WV is establishing a youth program for grades 6 – 12, which will meet monthly for a youth activity – participating in adventures outside the church, i.e. a Christian comedian appearing in Rochester. They invite our BG youth/adults to consider joining in this venture as well.
- Sunday School Rally Sunday is Sept 17 with a theme “Set Sail to Learn & Serve”.
- Sunday School will start on Sept 24th for preschool through 6th grade & Confirmation for grades 7-9.
- Sunday School Christmas program will be on Dec 3rd (first Sunday of Advent) during the worship service.

Trustees:

- While exploring options for church restoration and handicap-access, the Trustees are also taking related fire-code regulations into consideration. The architect has now brainstormed options that would make the fire-code requirements more feasible. As time permits, the architect will proceed with drawing up these options, and their related cost estimates, and present them for consideration to the Trustees/congregation. Trustees will continue to report back to Council regarding this potential project.
- Trustees are also problem-solving the handles on the main doors to the church. They will likely be replaced with non-latching “pull handles” since the doors are already locked from the inside.

UMW:

Are collecting school supplies for UMCOR Midwest Distribution Center. Char Frankenberry will deliver these to the Annual Gathering in September. UMW will also have concessions for Sept 9th Run for the Loaves and Tractor Pull, with all proceeds going to the Medford Scholarship Fund.

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Worship:

- We now have gluten free bread for Communion. On World Wide Communion Sunday, Pastor Stefanie will bake a variety of world-wide breads for communion, in order that each family can take one loaf home with them. She invites any interested BG bakers to join in this effort.

Communications:

- JJ & Stefanie set up a BGUMC email address - bloominggroveumc@gmail.com. This will be our permanent email address, and will not change with Facebook/website administrators or pastors. Currently, Pastors JJ and Stefanie will check for incoming messages. Any group in the church can use it to send messages.
- Judy Mahler researched website alternatives and proposed that we continue with the current provider, E-zekiel, but move up from their original/unstable platform (\$13.50/month) to their new platform that is much more user friendly and stable. This allows us to keep our current website name/address. The new platform has three levels, and we can upgrade at any time. Judy suggested that, in first quarter 2018, we start with the beginning level "Emerge" @ \$19/month. Approved by consensus. Note: for an additional \$10/month, we can add an on-line giving option at any time in the future, if so desired.

Nominations (Committee on Lay Leadership):

- Officers and committee appointments are due by Nov 1st. Hjordi will arrange this meeting.

Charge Conference

Is Nov 18th 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. The forms are on-line. Pastor JJ will help find them.

Other Business/Updates

- September 9th: Tractor Pull/ Run for the Loaves – all are invited to help volunteer at both events, as well as at the UMW concession stand.
- MN Church and Society Committee contacted Cindy Saufferer, asking if they could hold a conference workshop at BG, on farming issues – in 2018. The council sees this as a great opportunity. Request granted.
- Disaster Relief Mission Giving from now through December 31st (including Christmas Mission Offering) will all go through UMCOR, including mudslides in Sierra Leone, Hurricane Relief, wild fires in Western US. We will change our promotion of this mission offering to

invite people to indicate "UMCOR" in the memo line of their check and we will split the funding between these projects. If someone still wants to designate to a specific fund, we will honor that designation.

- Cemetery Mowing: Per suggestion from Dick Fisher, the Visitor staff will include an article twice a year regarding Immanuel & Bethel cemetery mowing, inviting people to donate to this project in order to help maintain the cemeteries of their ancestors. Checks can be written to BGUMC.
- 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 put up the tree, window decorations, manger scene, banners, etc.

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

Among other items of business, we will approve the budget and the list of 2018 Officers and Committees, and any other reports due for Charge Conference.

Pastor JJ closed the meeting with prayer at 8:15 pm.
Submitted by Char Frankenberry, Secretary

October 1st – World Communion Sunday



On Sunday, October 1st, BGUMC celebrated World Communion Sunday, along with people around the globe. On this day, as we gathered to share the bread and the cup, we honored the universal, diverse, and inclusive nature of the church, and prayed for our brothers and sisters around the world. We share here a picture of our World Communion table, including breads from around the world, in an amazing variety of shapes, textures, and flavors. At the end of the service, each family was invited to take a loaf of bread home, and to share that, and their faith stories with their families or others in their lives. Thanks go to Pastor Stefanie for her great idea and wonderful design, and to all who helped in baking the bread: Pastor Stefanie, Faye Kanne, Carol Karsten, Linda Danks, and several from WV EUMC.

The Blooming Grove Visitor



UMW Minutes

UMW met September 13 at Carolyn's. Char had the lesson.

The Treasurer reported

\$609.25 was received from concessions from the tractor pull. \$807.27 is in the Scholarship fund and \$564.95 in the General Fund.

It was suggested that next year the Tractor Pull and Run for the Loaves events be scheduled in time closer together, move the concession table closer to the activity and have tents if necessary. Also it was suggested that the UMW be in charge of concessions for both events.

The Secretary's report was accepted as read.

Theresa and Char attended the Day Apart at Keister.

Upcoming dates:

- Annual Gathering October 7 at Hutchinson
- Leadership Development Retreat, October 28-29 at St. Cloud.

The Solar Pot Holder project was mentioned. Faye has the pattern for anyone wishing to help make them.

The next meeting will be at Tracie's. Carolyn will have the lesson.



Up From the Couch We Arose!

Cindy Saufferer

We walked, we talked, we experienced a small portion of God in each other and in nature. We discovered new trails at the Riverbend Nature Center in Faribault and the Marsh Walk in Waseca. We walked for a great cause in the "Run For the Loaves" and made plans to walk for other causes next summer.

There are no scheduled walks for now but I encourage anyone who feels like going for a walk, call someone or send an email. Take time to be in community. And when the snow flies, I plan to pull out the snowshoes and skis. I hope you join me.

I lost track of the miles we covered this past few months. I was briefly disappointed but quickly realized that it wasn't about the miles, it was all about community. I look forward to next spring when the air begins to warm again and the community of walkers become a tradition.



Education & Events

Rally Sunday, on Sept. 17th, found a full dozen exuberant preschool through grade school youth nibbling, running, "rowing", "swimming", laughing,



"spying", coloring, & exclaiming in our front & side yards. They "discovered" people & places who could use our help. 4 (or was it 5?) middle school & HS youth pitched right in as "deck hands" (aka helpers) at the crafting/coloring table, with handing out prizes, & just generally helping to keep the enthusiasm up & the mayhem minimal. Many many thanks to Cris & Karrie VanZuilen for sharing their boat with us, & to our own Pied Piper, Judy Mahler, as she "led" our youth in their discoveries. Imaginations were on full throttle when young ones gazed through their spy-glasses from their "ship" to find a land & a people in need. Our "sailors" burned off plenty of energy, but at least had refueled before "sailing", on some tasty & cleverly decorated cookies & other nibbles. By Rally's end, it was determined our kids **ARE** ready to set sail to learn & serve.

Our first official day of S.S. on Sept. 24th didn't have quite the numbers of kids that we had on the 17th, but what we missed in quantity, we made up for in quality. A great group of kids applied themselves to the lesson, which includes a video, lesson book & discussion, music, & the traditional group closing which was initially started 'way back when' by Dick & Phyl Fisher.

PARENTS: don't forget to fill out & return the **CHILD INFORMATION and WAIVER** form – one for **each** child please. If you don't already have a form, you can pick up one up from Patti Ellingson or Marlis Mahler.

The Blooming Grove Visitor

Best Day Ever—Saturday, September 9th

Saturday, September 9th turned out to be the best day ever. It was a day to renew old friendships, make new friends, enjoy some great music and eat way too many of the treats provided by the UMW. The 9th was the day of the Run for the Loaves four mile run in the morning and the tractor pull in the afternoon. To see photo albums of both events, go to our BGUMC website, and select our Facebook page.



Run For The Loaves (by Brad Saufferer)

I'm here to tell you about the run/walk. There were forty one runners and walkers for the four mile event and six kids ran the quarter mile kids run. Leighton Nicholson won the kids run showing the outstanding running form developed by Grandpa Nicholson while running away from chores as a child.

The Owatonna boys cross country team ran with us again this year. Coach Chatelaine's young men are once again in contention to win the Big Nine and go on to the State meet. One of his young men, Caedon McCartney took first in the nineteen and under group with a time of twenty four minutes, thirty five seconds. Ryan Saufferer took first in the twenty nine to nineteen group while his sister Amy took first in the thirty nine to twenty nine group. Deb Hermel took first in the forty nine to thirty nine group while Rick Hager won the fifty nine to forty nine group. Our own Marlis Mahler took the sixty nine to fifty nine group.

The Big Loaf Trophy was taken home this year by Amy Saufferer with help of friends and her siblings. Amy raised \$300.00 to win the traveling trophy this year. It was pointed out to her that the Lombardi Trophy, the Stanley Cup, and the Big Loaf Trophy are all pretty much the same and she should display it proudly. Kudos to you Amy Jo.

I would like to thank the Medford Fire Department for one again sending EMTs to watch over the runners, the Waseca County Sheriff for sending a deputy to keep them safe on the road. Peter Klug for providing the live music and all the volunteers from the Church that made it possible.

Look for information on next year's run. We raised over \$2000.00 this year for area food shelves and hope to raise more next year. Don't miss next year's run because it will probably be the best day ever.



4th Annual Blooming Grove UMC Tractor Pull (by Judy Mahler)



Forty-five tractors, 27 drivers, and a large crowd of spectators gathered on September 9th under a brilliant blue sky and warm temps for the 4th Annual BGUMC Tractor Pull. The day was set aside for Farm Stock tractors only (no "souped-up" professional pulling tractors), and attracted farmers and friends from near and far.

This year our "pullers" came from as close by as ½ mile down the road to Blooming Prairie, Medford, Faribault, Ellendale, Waseca, Owatonna, New Richland, Winnebago, and Morristown! The tractors came in every color, make, model, and size, including John Deere, Oliver, Massey Ferguson, IH, Massey Harris, and Farmall. Oldest tractors: 1940 Farmalls, belonging to Jim Southworth and Randy Southworth. Newest tractor: 1978 John Deere, belonging to Justin Krell. It was great to see multiple-generations of "pullers" in many families and to watch the passion for these old tractors being enthusiastically carried on by the young adults in attendance.

The pull took place on a SW to NE pulling track prepared in the "Lord's Acre" just south of the church – a field cropped in hay this year. The tractors were lined up on the south edge of the field, along County Road 7, and were a sight to behold for passers-by. Larry Balzer was in charge, running each tractor through its paces with his pulling sled "The Equalizer". He ended the day with a total of 50 "hooks" or pulls. His patience, and his pointers/assistance in helping first-time pullers were greatly appreciated!

Spectators were everywhere...sitting on the church steps, enjoying food at the concession stand, and sitting on blankets and lawn chairs on the church lawn. It was a great day of enjoying the great outdoors with great people!

Thanks to the generosity of all involved, we raised \$815.00 in hook fees and donations, to be divided between the BGUMC restoration fund and Agricultural Mission Projects. In addition, the United Methodist Women took in over \$609.25 at the Concession Stand, with proceeds going toward Medford H.S. scholarships.

We extend our sincere thanks to the many, many people who made this event possible through volunteering their time prior to and during the event, and donating food and beverages. Special thanks to Brad, Tracie, & Alex Spinler and Justin & Kristin Krell for spearheading the event and donating winner's prizes!

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

October 2017

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

(507) 835-8726

Www.bloominggroveumc.org

Check us out on Facebook!

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

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

stefaniemorganmt@gmail.com

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

pastorjjmorgan@gmail.com



Requests for Prayer Chain Email:

Chery Southworth at
cherysouth@gmail.com

Visitor Staff:

Chery Southworth, Visitor Coordinator

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Judy Mahler, Editor

Carolyn Kanne, Writer

If you would rather read your copy of the Visitor online, (and in color) check us out at www.bloominggroveumc.org

To unsubscribe from the paper version, email us at cherysouth@gmail.com.

Emma Norton Events



Emma Norton

**ORANGE
DOOR DAY**

Saturday,
October 28

Make your day make a difference.

The United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women invite you to join them as they work to paint, refurbish and redecorate all 34 resident rooms at

Emma Norton Residence on Saturday, October 28th from 9 am—5 pm.. The day concludes with a celebration thanking those who helped start Emma Norton 100 years ago, and those that continue supporting the legacy. Help us to make every resident's journey home better than ever.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: orangedoorday2017.eventbrite.com

For questions contact Becky Boland at: bboland@emmanorton.org or 651-251-2662 or contact Cindy Saufferer.

***Emma Norton Residence
670 Robert St N, St. Paul, MN 55101***

**VOICES
for
VICTORY**

**The Journey
Home Begins
Here**

**Thursday October 12, 2017
5:30—7:30 pm
Mendakota Country Club**

Join us in celebrating victory over homelessness for women and families who are struggling with mental health and chemical dependency.

Visit VoicesForVictory2017.eventbrite.com for more information or to purchase tickets online. Contact Cindy Saufferer if you have any questions.

Voices for Victory has the opportunity to take advantage of a matching grant, but must raise \$42,000 between now and the end of the year. If you would like to contribute to that cause, please write a check to BGUMC and note "Voices for Victory" in the memo line.