

BLOOMER AND NEW AUBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

UNITED IN MINISTRY SINCE 1958



Bloomer UMC
Est. 1898

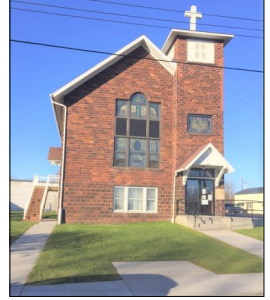
1700 Main St
Bloomer, WI 54724
715-568-1971
www.bloomerumc.com

Mission Statement

To share the Good News of Jesus Christ, through our worship, our education, and our role in our community and the world.

New Auburn UMC
Est. 1883

129 N Central St
New Auburn, WI 54757
715-237-2933 or 715-568-1971
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Mission Statement

To spread the good news of Jesus Christ and the message of God's grace.

A Message From Pastor Josh

Look at the nations and see! Be astonished! Be astounded! For a work is being done in your days that you would not believe if you were told.
Habakkuk 1: 5 (NRSV)

A couple of weeks ago, I asked both congregations how many people had heard of or were aware of the awakening/revival that was going on at Asbury University in Wilmore, Kentucky. Not surprisingly, only a small minority indicated that they were. After all, Wilmore is just a small town, boasting a population of about 6,000 people. Asbury University, where the awakening/revival is taking place, is a private, non-denominational (although it has strong ties to Wesleyan and Methodist traditions) institution with an average enrollment of about 2,000 students. Yet over the course of a couple of weeks, tens of thousands of people, some from other states and countries, have come to witness and be a part of what is taking place there. It is also spreading to other college campuses and into other states. Even mainstream media outlets like FOX and CNN have done stories and interviews covering the event. So, what do we make of all of this and how do we respond to it?

The first part of that question is a bit more difficult. As with most things these days, people have no problem expressing their opinions and feelings on things and those responses cover the full spectrum. There are some who think it is fake, a political/religious stunt, and even dangerous. There are some who are skeptical, indifferent, and reserved, taking it as it is and waiting to see what happens. And there are those who are hopeful, supportive, and even wildly excited at what is happening. Before I give you my take on it, I want to pose a very serious question to each of you. What is your initial gut reaction to what is happening at Asbury? Is it anger, jealousy, skepticism, indifference, questioning, seeking, excitement, hopeful, etc.? Now, I want you to spend some time thinking about your thinking. Why do you think and feel that way? Now, I need to be very careful here, but I am going to suggest that your initial thinking and feeling(s) on this may represent something about the current state of your relationship with God. Now, this may surprise many of you considering the fact that I continually tell you I have a tendency toward skepticism on many things. Yet on this, I find myself excited by what I am seeing, and I am hopeful that this event will affect change not only in the lives of the people participating, but that it will be contagious and spread to affect change throughout the world. First, what is going on at Asbury appears authentic, and it is centered in worship and repentance. While there is some organization and leadership that is keeping the event going (or else it would just spiral into chaos), it appears organic. The event has not been manufactured by some big-name evangelist, Christian influencer or the hottest Christian band. It is just the 'normal', 'everyday', pastors and students who are leading worship. 'Everyday' people are also the ones praying for each other and offering support. Interestingly, these events are happening on a college campus, to a young generation that has not had the same ties and loyalty to the traditional church as previous generations, nor have they experienced a religious revival that they can claim as their own. So, the fact that young people are being drawn to God, they are giving their lives to Christ, and are content to just sit in worship and repentance, speaks volumes to me. Yes, there are displays of emotion from those attending, but it does

Pastor Josh continued, Missions and Ministries

not appear to be a hyped-up emotional frenzy, it is God working on and changing lives, and how can one not be excited and emotional about that?! Now, I do have to say, that while I am excited and hopeful, I do pray to see the transformation that these people are experiencing be authentic and lasting. I pray to see them go back to their families, communities, states, and the world to testify their experiences with others. I pray they be willing to share the Gospel and be agents of change and transformation in those places they call home. I also pray local churches and other Christian organizations rise up to help nurture, support, and disciple these people. Now, to the question of how we respond.

Again, I expect that your answers to this question will vary depending on the state of your spiritual journey and how you perceive this event. Please allow me to ask you a series of very important questions. Rate each of these questions using a scale of 0-10. Ten representing the ideal response. How hungry for God are you? How interested are you in seeing powerful change and transformation in your life and in the lives of others? How often are you engaging in authentic worship and repentance (what does it look like for you)? How open and aware are you to the movement of the Holy Spirit, the supernatural, and the miraculous? How does the supernatural effect your daily living? Are you struggling with some of these questions—good! If your answer to every one of them is not an extreme positive (ideal), that is okay. These are not meant to make you feel shame, guilt, or condemnation. Instead, I hope and pray they provoke you to think about what God is doing in your life and in the world. Here is the thing friends, I hear a lot, people are praying for and expressing a desire to see and experience a revival. When I hear these kinds of statements I agree with them, but I also believe that we are to be the agents of the awakening and revival we are praying for. Now, I am in no way saying that an awakening or revival is something we can just initiate by ourselves. I firmly believe awakenings and revivals are initiated and activated by the Holy Spirit. And, as we are in tune with the movement of the Spirit and allow ourselves to be conduits for God's purposes, we might just find that awakening and revival occurs right here in Bloomer and New Auburn, or wherever you are reading this from.

Friends, we are part of a religious tradition that is no stranger to awakenings and revivals, in fact our tradition was born out of it. During this month of March, I ask that you keep those people who have experienced this awakening and revival in your prayers - pray that it takes root, pray transformation sticks, and pray that God raises up leaders and disciples for kingdom purposes and God's glory. I ask that you pray for awakening and revival in our churches and communities, and how you get be transformed and what role you get to play. God is at work, and it is so good you will hardly believe it! Put on your spiritual glasses! Open your eyes and see! Be astonished! Be astounded!

Bloomer On Going Missions

Keep on collecting your...



...**Aluminum cans**...SAVE your ALUMINUM CANS...we will not collect them thru the winter...but please SAVE them and we will get them in the spring!

...**Pop tabs**...They will be given to Ronald McDonald House Charities to help raise money so the people that need to stay there are able to do it without worrying about how to pay for where they will stay when their child is in the hospital.



...**Box Tops**...The box tops go to help the area schools. Remember to enter them into the Box Tops website.

If you have any questions about these missions please feel free to contact Maryann Gumness or Juanita Fransway.

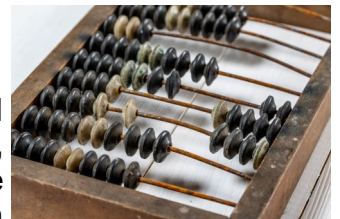
What did Jesus do at the Last Supper to his disciples?

Washed their feet.

NA UMC AUDIT

The annual church audit will be conducted on **Saturday, March 4th at 10:00**. Anyone that would like to help with

auditing the 2022 church books are encouraged to attend. Those that write checks on behalf of the Church are asked to bring your documentation and check book. If you have questions, please call Veda at 715-967-2055.



Caps and Personal Hygiene

Do you have any brand new personal hygiene products or hats that you have knit that you would like to donate to various organizations? Talk to Juanita Fransway and she can help you get them to people in need. You can find her Sunday mornings at Bloomer UMC.

Missions and Ministries

New Auburn Loose Coin



This month the loose coin offering will go to Hope Gospel Mission's shelters.

Hope Gospel's vision is: "To see the lives of the homeless and needy

transformed for the glory of God, so they can be the people that God intended them to be."

~ from hopegospelmission.org

Bloomer Loose Coin

This month Bloomer's loose coin will go to *Heifer International*.

"Heifer International is on a mission to end hunger and poverty in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities." ~ from heifer.org



You can find out much more information on Heifer International by going to their website heifer.org.

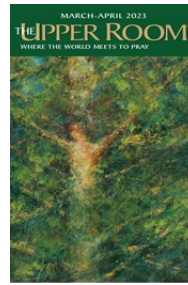


Save The Date

- ⇒ Lent Soup Supper/Bible Study, Wednesday March 1, 6:15pm at New Auburn UMC
- ⇒ Lent Soup Supper/Bible Study, Wednesday March 8, 6:15pm at Bloomer UMC
- ⇒ SPRC Meeting, Sunday, March 12th, 12:00pm at Bloomer UMC
- ⇒ Lent Soup Supper/Bible Study, Wednesday March 15, 6:15pm at New Auburn UMC
- ⇒ Lent Soup Supper/Bible Study, Wednesday March 22, 6:15pm at Bloomer UMC
- ⇒ Lent Soup Supper/Bible Study, Wednesday March 29, 6:15pm at New Auburn UMC

What is the shortest verse in the Bible?

John 11:35



New Auburn UM Women of Faith

This month New Auburn UM Women of Faith will meet Thursday, March 2nd at 1:00pm. Bring your March/April Upper Room Devotional.

People of the Word!

Thank you to everyone that participated in Souper Bowl Sundae! The soups and sundaes were delicious and it was a wonderful time of fellowship for all. We were able to collect \$219 to put towards our missions.

Please join us on March 14 at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall for our next meeting – all are invited to attend – we would love to see you there! We are planning some exciting events for 2023 and welcome your ideas. We are looking forward to hosting women's, men's and youth conferences this year to share the Spirit with others and shine our light in our community – so join us – we promise it will be fun!



Ongoing Prayer Ministry



Please lift up our homebound friends in prayer.

Bloomer and New Auburn friends: Dick and Verona Donahue, Betty Kistner, Juanita Ruffedt, Louise Hacker, Mae Frank...

Charge Celebrations

New Auburn Birthdays

- 03 Dawn Clements
- 05 Derrick Breezee
- 10 Sue Trowbridge
- 19 Peggy Stanford
- 23 Ken Mullen
- 25 Dave Bowman
- 26 Diane Bleskacek
- 27 Alysha Butterfield
- 31 Brandon North

New Auburn Anniversaries

Positions open!

Bloomer Birthdays

- 04 David Olson
- 05 Jean Turner
- 10 Ava Olson
- 10 Peggy Stoffel
- 14 Erin Martin
- 18 Sue Summerfield
- 19 Dale Gumness
- 22 Nanci Nelson
- 24 Jake Turner
- 26 Tom Fijalkiewicz
- 27 Cashton Gumness
- 28 Ross Nelson
- 30 Clayton Gumness

Bloomer Anniversaries

- 03 Erik and Jenn Larson

Thank You For The Beauty

Thank you to Craig Koerth for the beautiful altar February Flowers.



Souper Bowl Sundae

Thanks to all who helped for Souper Bowl Sundae—it was delicious—those who helped serve—set up or cleaned up—it was a great time with great fellowship and we made \$219 to go towards our conferences sponsored by PoW!.

Thank You!

Thank you to Dale for stepping in for Josh and sharing his message on forgiveness.

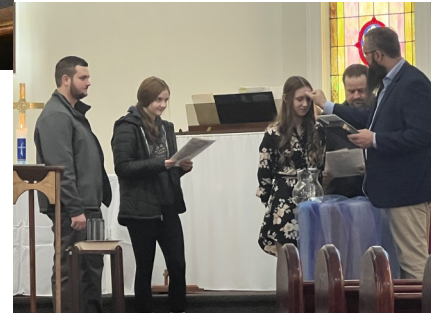
Baptismal Celebration

Welcome to the family of believers of Jesus Christ!



Adaline Kay

Hazel Lee



Roselin Marie

We are so excited to have you join the family and look forward to helping you develop your relationship with Jesus!

Christian Education and More

What A Blessing!



What a blessing to help celebrate Adaline Kay Vestil's Baptism. God bless her and her family as they were able to fellowship with us after her Baptism.

Food Thank You

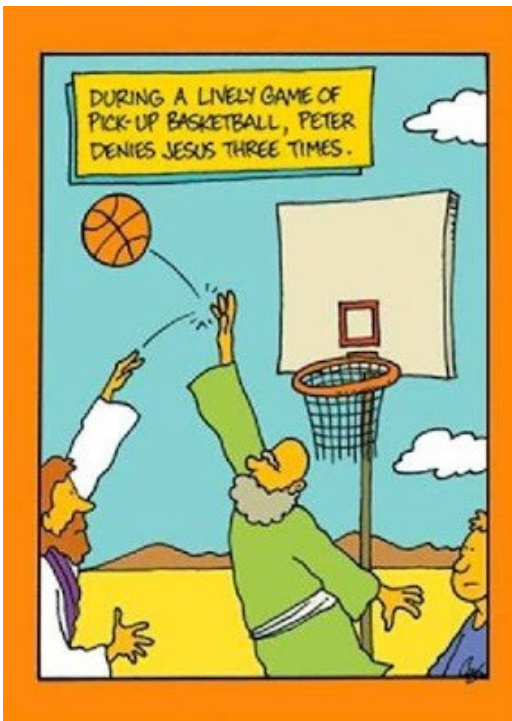
Thank you so much to those of you that have donated snacks to Kidzillion and made meals for Youth Group. An extra special thank you to those of you that have prepped meals but didn't get to serve them due to the weather events. All of you as appreciated more than you will ever know!



Upcoming Event April Event

New Auburn United Methodist Church children and youth will be hosting a free will breakfast on Palm Sunday.

Watch for more information in next month's newsletter and in the announcements during service.



Children and Youth Programming

Where did February go? Yes, it is the shortest month but it seems to have gone past quicker than normal. It could be because of the dumping of snow that we just received or because it has been very busy.

In our children and youth programs we have been very busy!

Kidzillion continues to learn about the Heart of God with lessons, which contain skits and team work, reading scripture, games, and even more. Even though the Ash Wednesday service was cancelled the Kidzillion kids were able to have an Ash Wednesday lesson and receive ashes on their heads.



Youth Group is having a great time leaning about the Armor of God. We also played dart ball in February and invited families of the youth to participate too. A great time was had by everyone! In March, Youth Group will be learning about Lenten disciplines and how to grow a stronger relationship with Jesus as we approach Easter. Of course there will be a couple weeks off too due to spring breaks. Luckily there are five Wednesdays in March!

Sunday school is marching along!

This month in the Bloomer Sunday school class we'll also be working through Lenten disciplines beginning with prayer.

At New Auburn, Austin is being taught by example by a wonderful church family and biological family.

If you know a child or children that you would like to participate in any of the children's programs above please contact Michelle Stoffel at Bloomer UMC or Ilene Moos or Janie Super at New Auburn UMC.

A Little Bit Extra

Amazing Grace

N S E V I L L S A F E N D H Z
A H M Z P O E N A H Y I E C H
M O O G J V A O Q C V K P T A
O U C J R E D I M A T T H E W
S R E G N A D S D S F S N R K
P S A L M S C S T E P O H W F
Y C R E M T I E T S A M U E L
G S A U E S A R T O S O U N D
N N L E A D S G B N L D F L D
I U W I F J U S H L A B E U H
Z S A A O L S N O O I V A K S
A H S E T T E A C N M N R E E
M T L Q S S J R S A V E D E E
A S U D O X E T S N A M O R S
S S E N L U F H T I A F D O G

Acts
blind
dangers
faithfulness
God
hope
Jesus
lead
love
mercy
safe
see
sound
sweet
transgressions

amazing
blot
David
fear
grace
hour
Joel
lives
Luke
Psalms
Samuel
servant
steadfast
ten
wretch

Amos
come
Exodus
found
home
Isaiah
John
lost
Matthew
Romans
saved
Son
sun
toils

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.