

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
www.bloomerumc.com**



Mission Statement

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

A Message From Pastor Josh

Grounded, Centered, & Focused

We are getting ready to enter another big transition period in both our seasonal and personal calendars. The month of September not only officially designates the beginning of the fall season, but it is also associated with the beginning of the farm harvest, kids going back to school, and adults settling into a more structured schedule. The outdoor activities and vacations will get wrapped up, and our lake friends and southern visitors are preparing to close-up their cabins and migrate back to their original homes. During all the transitions and busyness of the season, it is important to remember that we are to be grounded in our faith, centered in our mission, and focused on Jesus. So, how do we do that? Let me offer you a few suggestions: practice spiritual disciplines, take Sabbath rest, and practice gratitude.

This is not the first time that you have heard me expound on the importance and power of spiritual disciplines. I have come to believe, both through personal experience and in discussion with other Christians who are effectively living out their faith, that taking time to develop your personal spiritual life through the disciplines is a necessity. Why? Because they help take the focus off you and place it on God. This shift of focus allows you to center and prioritize what is most important. This new prioritization then helps remove distractions, which can help reduce stress and anxiety. If you are unfamiliar with the spiritual disciplines, let me list a few of the most common ones: prayer, study, service, and worship. If you are looking for a great book on the subject, I encourage all of you to read Richard Foster's, *The Celebration of Discipline: The Path to Spiritual Growth*. Please remember, I am not advocating these disciplines just so you can add them to your "To Do" list, I encourage you to do them because they lead to growth and a deepening of faith. While most of you are not surprised by my discussion of the spiritual disciplines, you probably won't be surprised by our next topic either – sabbath rest.

Take a moment and look at your life, those of your family, and your friends. Life has an uncanny way of making us feel like hamsters on a wheel. I work forty hours a week, with a side-hustle that takes even more hours just so I can "get ahead." The kids have activities, practices, and games almost every night of the week. I need to go grocery shopping, walk the dog, get a meal on the table, and try to cross off a few things on my never-ending To Do list. I could keep going, but I think you get the point. We run and run and run some more, only to come off the wheel when we can't go anymore.

When I meet with people, I can see a pleading in their eyes and a weariness on their face. Most of them won't admit it, and perhaps worse, most have just accepted it as a normal part of life, but they are tired, worn out, and just want a break. Guess what? God knew our proclivity to chase after all sorts of things that don't satisfy, so he insisted that we take time to rest, refuel, and be in his presence. Thus, our sabbath rest should be a time where we take a break from work, the projects, and the activities that zap our energy and distract us from what is most important. Sabbath rest should be an intentionally designated time where we engage in things that fill us up and bring us joy. While things like church and worship are important parts of a sabbath rest, they can also include things like time with family, friends, and neighbors, having a nice meal, exercising, engaging in hobbies, or literally resting and sleeping. Again,

Missions and Ministries

A Message From Pastor Josh, continued

the point of Sabbath is to rest and refuel. The idea of sabbath rest often runs counter to our very busy lifestyles and cultural expectations, but that is where we can show the world that life can be different. We were not designed to be going, "Mach 2 with your hair on fire" all the time (in case you're wondering, it's a Top Gun reference). Sabbath allows us to operate out of place where we feel healthy, energized, and joyful. When we operate from this place versus one that is constantly running on empty, it helps level the course of our lives, and it also helps us to better see how God is working in our lives and in the world. This leads us to gratitude.

Friends, gratitude has been talked about a lot recently. Some associate it with positivity and energy. Others speak of it in terms of humbleness and deference. While still others see it, as a way of getting or attracting things into their lives. Personally, I see gratitude as the proper response to the things God has done, is doing, and will do in my life and in the world. Just as the spiritual disciplines and sabbath rest have a way of reorienting our focus from ourselves or our circumstances to God, gratitude does the same. When we step into gratitude, we are better able to see the things God is doing. We can be thankful for the abundance and blessings that have been bestowed upon us. We may also get to the point where things we once considered hard, difficult, and painful become the very places we give our deepest thanks and praise. Gratitude gives you the opportunity to capture every moment of your life, whether holy or ordinary, and see it as the special gift that it is. If you are looking for a great book on this subject check out Ann Voskamp's book, *One Thousand Gifts: A Dare to Live Fully Right Where You Are*.

My friends, during this month of September, and through the rest of year, I pray that you implement and/or continue these things in your lives so that you may live grounded, centered, and focused lives. God bless!

Pastor Events

Lunch w/the Pastor – Wednesday, Sept. 6th, 11:00-12:00 @ NA UMC

Barhopping w/the Pastor – Friday, Sept. 22nd, 6:00-8:00 pm @ Bloomer Brewing Co.

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.

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.

Ongoing Prayer Ministry

Please lift up our homebound friends in prayer.

**Bloomer and New Auburn friends:
Verona Donahue, Betty Kistner, Juanita Rufledt,
Louise Hacker...**



You Are Invited

You are invited to celebrate the appointment of DS, Peace Kim on September 16, 2023 at Barron First United Methodist Church. Worship will begin at 10:00am, with a reception and luncheon to follow.

Missions and Ministries



New Auburn UM Women of Faith

This month New Auburn UM Women of Faith will take place on Thursday, September 7th at 1:00pm. All are welcome to attend the Upper Room Bible Study taken from Wednesday, September 6th (page 12). Join in the fellowship, coffee and interesting discussions. See you there.

Recipe of the Month

This month the recipe is FREEZER CORN.

Ingredients

18 cups of raw sweet corn cut from cobs

2 cups half & half

1/2 cup melted butter

1/3 cup sugar

1 tablespoon salt

Place raw corn kernels in buttered pan and pour the mixture of half & half, melted butter, sugar and salt over and stir.

Bake uncovered for 1 hour at 350 degrees

Stir again 1/2 way through

Cool completely before placing in freezer containers or freezer bags.



New Auburn Loose Coin

This month the New Auburn UMC loose coin collection will go to the Salvation Army.



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

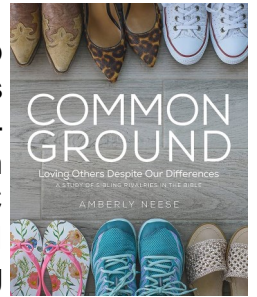
People of the Word!



Happy Labor Day!

Our 2023 Women's Conference was so amazing! The messages of Our Struggles Are Our Gifts and Rest really spoke to all of the attendees. The worship and Maryann's Moments were so meaningful. The Holy Spirit was moving at the Bloomer Fairgrounds on Saturday morning!

As part of our outreach ministry, we will be hosting a follow-up Bible Study after the Women's Conference this year. It is a 4-week study, beginning on September 14 at 6:00 pm, at LTC on Main Street. The study is titled "The Belonging Project – Finding Your Tribe and Learning to Thrive" by Amberly Neese and it should be amazing! All are welcome to attend! You can purchase the book on Amazon for around \$12. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle.



Join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, September 12, 6:00 pm at Barb Jarr's home – thank you Barb for graciously opening up your home to us for our monthly meeting again!

Bloomer Loose Coin

Bloomer's loose coin collection will go to Operation Christmas Child.



Charge Celebrations

New Auburn Birthdays

02 Melissa Breezee
07 James Plummer
18 Kathy Lane
26 Dave Moos
29 Carley Stilley

New Auburn Anniversaries

02 Russell and Connie Breezee
09 Mark and Deb North

Bloomer Birthdays

02 Eleanor Martin
04 Jan Geissler
09 Trevin Richardson
10 Desmond Martin
11 Coletín Wallsch
12 Linda Snyder
12 Keira Richardson
17 Anne Clements
24 Maryann Gumness
24 Kyle Martin

Bloomer Anniversaries

24 Dustin and Heidi Lueck
24 Brian and Shelly Yohnk

Bonus Recipe

Recipe For A Happy Home—from Ilene Moos

Ingredients

1 can of cheerfulness
1 bottle of ambition
1 pint of respect
1 box of humility
1 can of pure thoughtfulness
1 can of milk of human kindness

Mix these ingredients. Garnish with patience, smiles and kisses. Sprinkle well with a sense of humor. Serve in generous portions each day.

*We are
so Blessed*

Summer Fest Thank You

Thank you so much to the New Auburn UMC church family for your generous donation of backpacks to Summer Fest. Also, to New Auburn Legion Post for their donation of school supplies.



Here are Judy Anderson, Janie Super and Veda Reed distributing backpacks at the New Auburn Park Pavilion on Sunday, August 20th.

Maui Strong Thank You

Thank you so much to everyone that donated to Maui Strong, either at the women's conference or at Bloomer UMC on Sunday. We raised \$450 to help people of Maui!

COME ON OVER TO THE

2023

SENIOR CENTER

RESOURCE

FAIR

TUESDAY,

September 19th

8AM-3:30PM

Visit over 40 vendor tables for unique opportunities and resources. Stop by our café to purchase fresh treats. Take a tour of the Senior Center. Buy a T-shirt to remember the day! Visit the Craft Fair! Get a 2 minute massage!

1616 Bellinger Street
Eau Claire, WI 54703

Craft Fair!
Bake Sale!
Café with
fresh treats for sale!
Massages!
Center Tours!
Special Resources!

FREE ADMISSION!
ALL AGES WELCOME!

Proudly Sponsored by:

**Celebration of
Life Center**

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
CREMATION SERVICES

Christian Education

Christ, Conversation and Coffee



Sunday mornings at 9am at Bloomer UMC an adult Bible study, called Christ, Conversation and Coffee, is offered. As the name of the class indicates Christ is at the center of great conversations over coffee. Everyone is welcomed to come and participate. One does not need the Bible study book to participate, just come sit in on the class and learn how Jesus is at the center of it all. Again, Sunday mornings at 9am in the upstairs fellowship hall.

Help Wanted (Needed! Please, Please, Please)

WE NEED YOU Bloomer UMC's children and youth programming needs you!

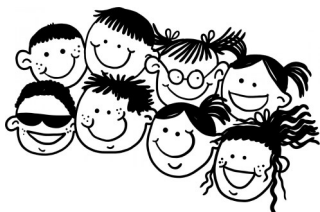
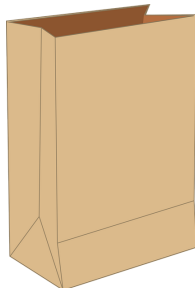
There are several areas that are need of help...

- * Sunday school helpers and substitute teachers
- * Kidzillion helpers, drivers, food donators and food servers
- * Bloburn helpers, meal donators and meal servers. This is needed at both churches.

There will be sign-up sheets at church with descriptions of what is expected. This includes Bloburn food sign-up sheets at New Auburn too. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Josh, Ilene Moos or Michelle Stoffel

Sunday School Materials

Bloomer UMC Sunday school is in need of brown paper bags to use for pieces of armor. Please bring them to church by September 10. Leave them on the pew in the upstairs fellowship hall.



Bloomer UMC Children and Youth Programs

Yay! It's that time of year again when the church throws its doors open after school and before church and says come on kids lets learn!



Sunday school starts again on Sunday September 17th at 9am. This year will be so much fun learning about the super heroes of the Bible and the Armor of God. Perhaps there will be some sword fighting? Sunday school is open to all children and youth from the ages of 3 to 18. The youth will be apprentices...are they up to the challenge?

Kidzillion begins on Wednesday, September 20th right after school until 5:00pm. It is for all kids in 5K through 5th grade. We provide rides from both the elementary school and the middle school if needed. This year we will continue learn about the Heart of God focusing on the New Testament.



Bloburn (Bloomer/New Auburn Youth Group) will also start on Wednesday, September 20th with a kick-off party at the parsonage in Bloomer. Bloburn is for ALL youth in grades 6th-12th. We have youth from Bloomer, New Auburn, Colfax and Chippewa Falls participating so when we say ALL youth are invited we do mean ALL.

Go to bloomerumc.com/bloomer for more details and to register your child/children/youth for all of these fun, amazing, Jesus centered programs that we offer.

And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.
~ Mark 10: 13-16

