

# 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](http://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](http://www.bloomerumc.com)

## Mission Statement

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



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## *A Message From Pastor Josh*

*<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. <sup>5</sup> Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup> Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. <sup>8</sup> Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. <sup>9</sup> Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6: 4-8 NIV)*

Friends, Lent is a time of preparation as we move to the celebration of Easter. It is a time when we are encouraged to do an assessment of our spiritual lives. It is a time to clean out and confess the dark things that do not belong there. It is also a time to reorder, refill, and renew. As you take time to reflect on and assess the state of your life, I have an important question for you to consider. Is Jesus the center of your life or is he an add-on? At the outset, this question seems simple and straight forward. You might even be tempted to give a quick “yes” answer and then move on, but I am going to encourage you to really sit with this question for a while and think about the ramifications of the way you answer it.

When we go back and look at the scripture from Deuteronomy given above, we find that we are given the command to love God with our whole being. Have you ever really considered what that means? Does that mean that you can just bring a little bit of yourself to the relationship? Does it mean that you can offer just a little bit of your time, energy, and resources? No!! It means you must fully show up. It means that all your time, energy, and resources should be directed at God first. Now I can already hear some of the sighing, moaning, and grumbling. Your mind is whirling and telling you this is too much, this is too extreme, this is fanatical. But does the God who created the entire universe, the God that formed and breathed life into us really deserve any less?

Let's think about it a little differently. What do you really think it would be like to be one of Jesus's disciples? What do you think it would be like to listen to Jesus teach and preach every day? What would it be like talking and travelling with him? What would it be like to both witness and to participate in the miracles that he did? What would your conversations with family, friends, neighbors, and even strangers look like as you shared your experiences?

If I had to venture a guess, I suspect each of us would find our lives drastically changed. Our lives would look drastically different because Jesus would become the true center of our lives. You see, there is this idea that what you focus on expands. The more we immerse ourselves in a relationship with Jesus, the more likely we are to experience transformation and emulate him. The problem, however, is that many of us fail to keep Jesus at the center and we fail to live up to the ideal of loving God with all we are and all we have. In the busy lives we lead, it can be easy to relegate Jesus to a simple add-on to our lives when it is convenient. When this happens, it generally doesn't take long for our lives to begin to spin out of control. In fact, I would say that we are seeing the result of this on a macro level right now.

As I survey things from a macro level, it seems as if we are living in a nation and a world that is rapidly trying to remove God from the center place. In many places in the West, more and more nations are accepting and even celebrating their post-Christian identification. Each year we witness a continual rise in the number of people who identify as religious “none” and “done”. Each year we watch churches who have served their communities for years

# Missions and Ministries

## A Message From Pastor Josh cont.

close their doors for good. At the same time all of this is happening, the world as we know it is becoming a more strange, chaotic, and violent place. I do not think that these things are mere coincidences. In fact, I might even argue that if this continues, we may find ourselves in an existential crisis.

Friends, I think it is time to push back on some of the trends! I think it is time for us as Christians to remember the identity and power we have in Christ. It is time to put God back in His proper place, at the center of our individual and corporate lives. It is time to reignite and fan the flame of Christ in our lives!

My dear friends, during this month of March I am going to encourage us to begin shifting the culture of our families, our churches, and our communities. It is time for us to live more fully into the command of loving God with all that we are and all that we have. We get to teach our children and grandchildren how to do the same. Now is the time to boldly begin sharing the gospel message of love and salvation EVERYWHERE! Now is the time for us, both as individuals and as a church, to live in a way in which the love of Christ is undeniable and His light flows through us into the dark places of our world.

I pray you take some time to truly wrestle with God on the original question during Lent. I pray the Holy Spirit moves each of you to greater levels of freedom and boldness. My spirit quickens as I ponder the transformation that will occur, both internally and externally, as we live into a heart fully committed to our God, the God of Abraham, Issac, and Jacob.

God Bless and Happy Easter!

### Lenten Wednesdays and Holy Week Schedule

3/6—at **Bloomer UMC**, soup supper at 6:15pm, service at 7:00pm

3/13—at **New Auburn UMC**, soup supper at 6:15pm, service at 7:00pm

3/20—at **Bloomer UMC**, soup supper at 6:15pm, service at 7:00pm

3/24—**Palm Sunday**. 9:00am at **New Auburn UMC** in-person only, 10:30am at **Bloomer UMC** in-person and online


3/28—**Maundy Thursday** at **New Auburn UMC** service only at 7:00pm

3/29—**Good Friday** at **Bloomer UMC**, service only at 7:00pm

3/31—**Easter Sunday!** 9:00am at **New Auburn UMC** in-person only, 10:30am at **Bloomer UMC** in-person and online


### 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.

### Ongoing Prayer Ministry



Please lift up our homebound friends in prayer.

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

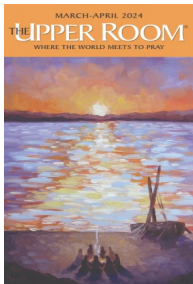
### Caps and Personal Hygiene



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 & Ministries

## New Auburn UMC Women of Faith



W.O.F Thursday, March 7, 1:00. All are welcome to join in with the Upper Room Devotional bible study, coffee and fellowship. (Upper Room Devotional guides are provided)

## Recipe of the Month

### Date Balls

#### Ingredients

- 1/2 tablespoon melted butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup dates finely cut up
- 2 eggs beaten
- 2 Cups Rice Krispies cereal
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- coconut



Grease frying pan with melted butter, add sugar, salt, dates and eggs. Cook until a sticky consistency. Pour over Rice Krispies and walnuts. Drop by teaspoons and roll in coconut. Store in fridge.

## New Auburn UMC Audit



The Annual Audit of the 2023 church books will take place on Saturday, March 2. The meeting will be held in the basement of the New Auburn

UMC at 10:00am. Any interested members are invited. Please contact Veda with any questions.

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(See John 19:17-37)

04-09-1998

SO JESUS, HAVE YOU MADE ANY PLANS FOR EASTER YET?

## People of the Word!

Happy St. Patrick's Day! May the blessings of each day be the blessings you need the most.



Thank you to all that supported our Souper Bowl Sundae Event!

Thank you to those that made soups and breads, brought meat and cheese trays, salad, and ice cream with allll the trimmings! It was a great time of fellowship. We raised \$220 that will be donated to Youth Fellowship.

Our next upcoming event is our Palm Sunday Pancake Brunch – sign-up sheets are circulating. Please contact Maryann Gumness if you have any questions.

## Plarn!



If you haven't heard, we are collecting plastic grocery bags. There is a collection box at each church to put those plastic bags in. I have heard many are eager to share your never-ending supply of bags with the church, so the collection boxes will be filling up fast. That is good, because we need lots and lots of bags to weave sleeping mats to distribute to homeless in coordination with Midwest Missions.

Before we can start weaving, we need to turn plastic bags into PLARN – plastic yarn. To make plarn, well it is a process of cutting, tying and rolling it into balls.

It calls for a Plarn Party.

Everyone is invited

Thursday, April 11, 1pm to 2:30pm at New Auburn UMC

Come and be a part of a new adventure.....making plarn. Invite a friend, join the fun and earn the bragging rights to making plarn and impress your friends.

1. When Jesus entered Jerusalem during what is known as His Triumphal Entry, what animal was He riding on?
2. Which disciple cut off the ear of the high priest's servant in an attempt to protect Jesus from being taken prisoner?
3. How many times did Peter deny Christ after he abandoned the Lord?
4. How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers?

1) donkey 2) Peter 3) three 4) with a kiss



# Charge Celebrations and more Missions & Ministries

## 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 <3

### 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 Fikalkiewicz
27	Cashton Gumness
28	Ross Nelson
30	Clayton Gumness

### Bloomer Anniversaries

03	Erik and Jenn Larson
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### New Auburn Loose Change for March

Bloomer Community Clothes Closet

Start filling your collection container with your loose change: clean out the bottom of your purse, or check out the floors and cubbies in your car. Every penny or nickel makes a difference and a nice jingle in a metal collection bucket; a jingle when heard reminds us that we are making positive opportunities in our community.

Loose change will be collected on March 31 as you leave the sanctuary.

## Holey Socks

Holey or Holy Socks, Mixed Matched Socks and the ones that do not get worn any more, but NO Stinky socks!

YES.....we are collecting socks, to be sorted by material, then recycled into pellets and insulation. For each box collected, the United Women in Faith, formally United Methodist Women, will receive a \$5 donation to a non-profit of their choice. United Women in Faith have chosen the non-profit of Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee, WI.

We all wear socks and admit it....THEY GET HOLEY and our washing machine eats them. So, bring in those left-over lonely socks, the ones that sit in your drawer, give them a purpose. They can be recycled into something new!

There are collection boxes at each church. Bring in those lonely socks in, drop them in the collection box and give them a purpose and NOT to fill a landfill.



## Bloomer Monthly Mission

The recipient of March/April's Missions Monies will be 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.



# **Christian Education and Some Other Stuff**

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!**

Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Bloomer/New Auburn UMC are on the schedule at The Community Table to prepare and serve a meal on July 10<sup>th</sup>. I realize this is months away, however, I wanted to give you a heads up, since this is something new.

If you do not know, The Community Table (TCT) is a soup kitchen in Eau Claire that serves a hot meal every day each year to those in need of food and hospitality. TCT relies completely on volunteers to prepare, serve and cleanup for each meal. Volunteering at TCT is an excellent opportunity to serve and connect with those in need, to build team work and friendships with team members and the people we will serve.

If you are at all interested in this opportunity, I ask that you text me, (Chris at 715 225-2983), with your contact information (phone or cell number and email address). That will allow me to develop a data base to use as July 10<sup>th</sup> approaches to set up a team and arrange carpooling. Watch for more information and details in future newsletters.



## **New Auburn Senior Coffee**

2024 New Auburn School monthly Senior Coffee with New Auburn Students meets every first Monday of the month.

In February, Easton Rust of FFA presented his speech to the seniors prior to his Rice Lake presentation.

March's Senior Coffee will be Monday, March 4th at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome.



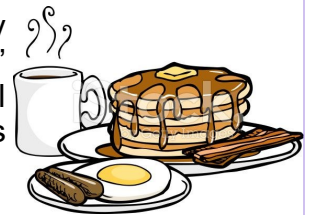
## **Kidzillion Presents...**



Everyone is invited to Kidzillion's presentation of "The Epic Easter Trivia Show: The Ultimate Final Answer"! The first and final showing will be Wednesday, March 27th at 4:00pm in the sanctuary at Bloomer UMC. Bring yourself and everyone that you know. It is rated G. The cost is absolutely free!

## **Palm Sunday Celebrations**

After church on Palm Sunday the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entrance will continue with delicious breakfast meals!



New Auburn's meal will begin right after church at 9am in the basement. It will be a potluck breakfast that will include a variety of egg bakes, fruit trays, sweet breads and more. Come and enjoy community fellowship. A free will offering will be taken to help off set the cost of the youths' special summer events cost.

Bloomer's meal will be from 11:30am until 1:00pm. It will consist of pancakes and sausage, egg bakes, and other delicious foods to compliment the pancakes. A free will offering will be taken and everyone is invited.

There is absolutely no excuse for you to go away from church hungry on Palm Sunday, March 24th!

