

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

14 You are the light of the world... let your light shine before people, so that they can see your good deeds and give honor to your Father in heaven. (For full verses see Matthew 5: 13-16)

My friends, who ever thought we would be experiencing something like this in our lifetime? I can't say I had anything like this in the vision of my life. It seems almost surreal that within the span of a couple of weeks we have witnessed the spread of a pandemic, a sizable correction in the stock market, schools close with indefinite return dates and businesses and organizations of every kind forced to operate differently. But this is our life and we need to figure out how to navigate it as best we can. So, what can we do personally, and as a church, to keep moving forward? As I have said throughout this process, we need to keep a level head and keep our emotions in check. Emotions are natural, and we will probably experience many of them, but we cannot give into them and allow them to rule us. It is true that we have chosen to cancel our services and programming. It is also true that during this period of social distancing that we are not able to meet and worship in the same way. But, it is also true that there are several positive things and opportunities for us. First, it reminds us that **the church is not a building**, it is the people. As I have connected with some of our members over the last week, I have been delighted to hear that you have been worshipping in different ways. Some of you have tuned into our services online, others of you have watched televised services from different churches and others are engaging in the spiritual disciplines. This is awesome! Second, in the midst of all this change and uncertainty, there is opportunity. As I have been praying, God has been working on my heart saying, "Now is not the time to slow down or shrink back, now is the time to pick up the pace and to move forward. Now is the time to grow the church." What does this mean? I take this to mean that **we have an opportunity to reconsider the way we worship**. I believe this is a time for our churches to innovate and look for ways of not only ministering to our current audience but to reach out to a new one. I believe there is an online audience just waiting for us to reach out to them. Some of them might be our family members, friends or neighbors. Some we may never have met because they live in other states and countries. Now at this point, I am sure some of you are starting to get a little defensive, "Woah, hold on Pastor Josh. What are you saying? What does this mean?" I will admit that I do not have the full picture yet, but I think it starts with us finding new and creative ways to do worship services and be in connection during this period when we are unable to meet in person. I think it is time that we begin utilizing the online resources we have more optimally and efficiently, while at the same time exploring new technology that allows us to meet remotely for Bible studies, prayer groups and meetings. This technology may also allow us to experiment with podcasts and blogs.

Finally, despite the quarantine regulations, we need to find ways to continue being salt and light to our communities through mission. I want to encourage you to think about organizations that are struggling during this time, is there a way that you can help? Perhaps you would be able to donate a Friday to help the food pantry, which relies heavily on older people to operate. Perhaps you are able to call some of the residents in the nursing home to talk and pray with them. Perhaps you order out from your favorite local restaurant/bar and/or order some gifts cards which you can give to a neighbor in need. There are many other ways that you can be a witness to the world while still being socially responsible and adhering to the medical and governmental restrictions.

A Message From Pastor Josh cont.

I know all of this may seem overwhelming, but I believe that each of us are here for this exact time and season. God has given each of us gifts to use and he needs us to use them for his purposes. Friends, let your light shine and let it shine bright to a world that desperately needs to see it! God Bless

Communication Information:

With all of the changes that have happened and will most likely continue to come forth, it is my request that each of you be proactive and intentional in looking for communication from the churches. Michelle and I are doing our very best to keep you informed about any changes we make regarding church activities. We are also trying to find new ways to create new content for you to use during this time. As we continue to navigate this time of social distancing, we are utilizing the website, social media, email and group texting to push out information as soon as possible. If you are not connected with any of those forms of communication, I would urge you to consider learning how to use one of them. Also, as we continue to utilize these resources, it is important that you share the information with your family, friends and social networks. In the paragraphs below, I will go over how to access and best utilize some of the resources we have.

Phone numbers and email addresses: Please make sure that we have the most current contact information for you. As I have been going through the church directory, attempting to contact people during this time, some phone numbers and emails are not current. Any time one of these changes, please notify us as soon as possible. The church website, **Bloomerumc.com**, is another fundamental resource for information and content. Simply type Bloomerumc.com into your search tab and then select the site. You will find information for both churches, as well as the calendar, newsletter, sermons and online giving options (only Bloomer has online giving set up at this time).

Group Text Messaging: Over the past several months we have been promoting this resource as a simple and easy way to receive messages and communications from the church. If you are able to receive texts, this is a simple and great resource. All you have to do is send a text message to 715-256-7033, and we will add you to the list. Then, anytime we send a message to the group, it will show up immediately as a text message on your phone.

Social Media – Facebook: For those of you that enjoy browsing the web, we would encourage you to create a Facebook account and follow our church pages. Our Facebook pages not only feature the most recent updates but we also use them for resources and content that you may find encouraging and helpful. This is also another place where we post our worship services. So, if during this or some other time you can't make it to church, you can connect with us from the place that you are.

If you do not have a Facebook account, you will need to create one before you can access our pages. This requires giving your email address and setting a password. You will then be asked to create a profile, which you can customize with as much information as you desire. Once all that is done you can search for our church pages. Simply type Bloomer United Methodist Church or New Auburn United Methodist Church into the search bar at the top of the Facebook page. Once you select our church pages, please Like and Follow them (these options are under the picture). This will allow you to see and interact with the content on the page. Pretty easy, huh?

The other online resource we are using is **YouTube.com**. The Bloomer church has created a channel on YouTube and we use it to post our worship services. This channel also serves as a sort of archive as it contains several of the previous services. In contrast, the website only maintains three-to-four of them at a time. Again, once you get to YouTube.com you can choose to create an account (this is useful if you wish to subscribe to our channel and helpful!), then type in Bloomer UMC into the search tab. Once you find the channel, please hit the Subscribe button so that you are able to see all the content and receive notifications anytime new material is released.

Finally, a special note on the Facebook and YouTube pages and channel. It is very important that you interact with our pages. When you see new material, please Like and Share it. This helps us reach a greater audience. Please know that when we create a post, it is often limited to a certain number of people to see. The more people interact with the page and like and share our stuff that number increases. So please help us use this tool as a way to reach new people and to share the Gospel with them. Thank you so much!

Ministries and Missions

Loose Coin Offerings

At the time this article is being written there is so much unknown around us. We don't know when we will resume in person services again. However, we do know that eventually we will but until then there are ministries and missions that are typically only financially supported because of the in person gatherings. One of these ministries is the loose coin offerings of both churches.

If you would like to support either loose coin offering while there are no in person service you are able to still send your donations in the form of a check to either church. Just indicate what the check is for in the memo section. The other way to support them is collect all of your change during this time of social distancing and bring a huge bag in when we have in person services again and hand the bag to Veda in New Auburn or Sandi in Bloomer and let them know that your huge bag of change goes to April's loose coin offering.

There is another thing that we know for certain...**GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!**

Thank you in advance for sharing your gifts that God has given you!

New Auburn Loose Coin

April's loose coin offering will go to the Bloomer Community Clothes Closet.

Bloomer Loose Coin Mission Monies For 1st Quarter

The second quarter of 2020 will see the loose coin offering go to the Vacation Bible School program..

Ongoing Prayer Ministry

Please lift up our homebound friends in prayer.

Bloomer and New Auburn friends: Dick and Verona Donahue, Betty Kistner, Ellen Mark, Fern Meisner, Juanita Ruffedt, Jim and Virginia Young, Betty Wallsch, Louise Hacker.



New Auburn Purse Ministry

A quick reminder that our All Church Purse Mission is on going. We continue to collect gently used purses to fill and donate to area Abuse Shelters.

Bloomer On Going Missions

Keep on bringing your...

...**Aluminum cans**...The money is used toward helping our youth with summer camp funding and such. Thank you so much for the donations and keep them coming!

...**Pop tabs**...**We have one 5 gallon bucket full! Only 4 more to go. The challenge has been extended! Bring those tabs that you collected from the holidays.**

...**Box Tops**...The box tops go to help the area schools.

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

On Going Ministries and Missions

Please continue to collect all of the items for all of the ongoing ministries that both churches have. There will be a time when we will gather again and there will be a great need for many of those items. Right now please continue to pray for all of our friends near and far. The most vulnerable of friends really need prayers of protection, patience, and love.

Remember...**GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME!**

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.



United Methodist Women and More Missions and Ministries



New Auburn UMW

April's UMW meeting will be Wednesday, April 1st at 1:00pm. We will have our "A call to prayer and self-denial" observance for our program. Bring your special "Self-Denial offering" that day.

The program leader and hostess will be Barb Plummer.

IF there is a change of date due to the on going health crisis COVID-19 we will call our members. We are a group of less than 10 members.

Lunch items will be bought in prepackaged units to make it safer for all.

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch has been cancelled until April 20th at least. This of course may get pushed out further depending upon the social distancing restrictions.

Bloomer Mission Committee

There will be a Mission Committee meeting after church April 19th at 11:45am. If you would like to join the committee please contact Kim Leonard or Pastor Josh.



Bloomer UMW

It's been a difficult few weeks. COVID-19 is having a real impact on all of us—our plans, our families and friends, our day-to-day lives. Due to this time of social distancing, Bloomer United Methodist

Women will not meet on April 8, and will hopefully be able to meet in May to kick off our year! We will keep you posted on future meetings through all the lines of communication that our church has so wonderfully provided for us.

Stay strong and stay healthy! Reach out to each other (within the guidelines 😊) and inspire each other so we all stay connected during this time of the unknown. Keep the faith because God Is Good All The Time, All The Time God Is Good!

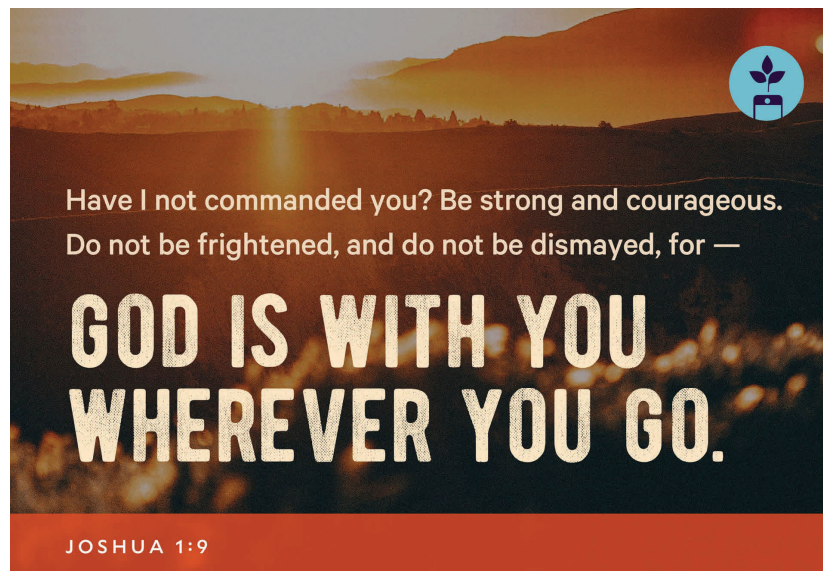
Bloomer Meetings

The Worship committee will be meeting Tuesday, April 21st at 5:30pm.

The Administrative Board meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday April 21st at 7:00pm. If you are on either of these committees and are unable to make the meeting please contact Pastor Josh.

Caveat

Due to everything that is going on with COVID-19 any or even all of these dates for meetings and events may change at the very last minute. We, at the charge office, will try to keep everyone informed about any changes as quickly as possible. Thank you for being patient with us.



Charge Celebrations and Christian Education

New Auburn Birthdays

02	Ryan North
05	Toney North
10	Justin Lee Nelson
17	Don Moos
19	Patricia North
19	Dan Moos
21	Scott Stuckert
25	Curt North

New Auburn Anniversaries

17	Toney and Pat North
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Bloomer Birthdays

06	Duane Wallsch
07	Brady Lueck
10	Caden Hauf
13	John Leonard
16	Leslie Fijalkiewicz
16	Dean Scheidecker
16	Dieta Scheidecker
19	Mike Bingham
20	Juanita Fransway
20	Shawn Stoffel
22	Alice Lane
29	Thomas Stoffel

Bloomer Anniversaries

16	Dean and Dieta Scheidecker
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Thank You

Thank you to Kathy Nelson, Dianne Bleskacek, Barb Plummer, Janie Super and Veda Reed for Auditing the 2019 New Auburn Church books.

Bloomer Children and Youth Programs

To begin I, Michelle, miss all of the kids, youth and teachers! I miss all of you and can't wait to see you again. In the last couple of days I have seen a couple of our youth at various food establishments and it was wonderful to have a quick chat with them and make sure they are doing well. I also am blessed to see a couple kids each day too and I get to help them keep up with their studies. I miss everyone else though.

I know in time this too shall pass. As it looks right now it won't pass until at least April 24th so all the activities that were scheduled for the middle to end of April will be cancelled. I pray that in May we'll get to see each other again. If things go into May remember that VBS will be coming in the summer.

Until we meet again there are ways for the kids to keep up with their scriptural studies. The Holy Bible app has a kid's version app too that can be downloaded to a smart phone or tablet. The app is kind of fun. It has scripture told in cartoon form and there are games to play on it too. Pinterest is also a great resource for fun activities and printables to use to teach scripture.

For many years the Bible was used to teach people how to read so you could work it into your children's daily home school work to help them keep up with their reading. You could use it for math and engineering for the older kids too. Have them create Noah's Ark in a smaller scale of the exact measurements. Use the plagues or the Apostles to help the younger kids learn how to count. The possibilities are endless.

Finally, please have your children and youth pray for the all of their friends in Kidzillion, Sunday School, and Mission Unstoppable. Please pray that everyone stays healthy and for those of our friends that were supposed to have surgery this month and may have to have it postponed for a bit.

Remember God Is Good All The time!

Love,
Michelle

