

# 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***

Greetings, sisters and brothers in Christ, welcome to the month of June! Over the past few months, I have been writing about four areas of focus for our churches in 2021. As a recap, those areas are discipleship, online worship, missional alignment and intentional worship. This month I will concentrate on defining and discussing intentional worship. Let me begin by asking you a fundamental question, what is worship?

Genuinely, I expect a diverse response to this seemingly simple question. Some of you are listing the elements that make up a worship service such as prayer, music, etc. While others, may be differentiating matters such as the style of the service or the symbolism within the church. Although all these ideas have importance, none of them fully encompasses what worship really is! Rather they tend to describe the things we do in worship. Therefore, throughout the remainder of this article, I would like us to begin exploring the topic of worship. First, we will examine a couple of definitions of worship. Second, we will unpack our approach to creating and participating in intentional worship. Lastly, we will speak to some of the changes you may have noticed over the last few months and ways for you to get involved. Let us begin with the definitions of worship.

On the first page of the United Methodist Book of Worship, it declares, "Our worship in both its diversity and its unity is an encounter with the living God through the risen Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit." At the most basic level, worship is an encounter with God, through Jesus and empowered by the Holy Spirit. The diversity that the definition speaks of is the idea that there is no single way to experience or participate in this encounter. There are various, unique worship practices and styles influenced by location, race, gender and a host of other human distinctions. Constance Cherry, a professor of worship and Christian ministries at Indiana Wesleyan University, offers another definition of worship from a slightly different perspective. She defines worship as, "the expression of a relationship in which God the Father reveals himself and his love in Christ, and by the Holy Spirit administers grace, to which we respond in faith, gratitude, and obedience." Like the Book of Worship's definition, Cherry sees worship as Trinitarian in nature, but she expounds on the expression of the relationship. There is a sense of back-and-forth dialogue between God and the worshiper (us). Hence, when we come to church to worship, we should be coming with an expectation of being in the presence of God (an experience) and being in relational dialogue with God through the entire service. Interesting? Embracing these definitions of worship may challenge a person to adopt a new approach to experience and worship our Holy Father. I encourage you to reflect on your current understanding of worship and to invite God to reveal where your definition may need to shift.

With a definition of worship in place, let us now talk about what it means to be in intentional worship within our churches. The term intentional worship has two meanings for me. The first meaning has to do with leadership, both pastoral and lay, and how we prepare and design worship. Many of you have heard me say something like this, "I want our worship to be as open and inviting to as many people as possible while still glorifying God through every part." As your pastor, I strive to actively coordinate with staff and church leadership, to find the most effective and beautiful ways to offer our worship services. Consequently, I tend to see worship as dynamic rather than static. To be dynamic is to be moving and changing to best fit the goal. Thus, I will continue to encourage our churches to be deliberate and innovative in how we design our services. Let me offer further explanation for those feeling nervous by

## *A Message From Pastor Josh cont.*

this line of thought. Dynamic worship is not about change for change's sake. Rather, it is a mindful attempt to be in sync with the movement and leadings of the Holy Spirit. Listening to and applying God's will, divinely influences how God is experienced during worship thereby increasing the number of worshipers transformed by a meaningful encounter with God. This leads us into the second meaning of intentional worship. As a worshiper, you come with an expectation and a desire to truly experience God and be in a relational dialogue with him. This is an actionable step requiring you to be deliberate in your preparation for worship. Ask yourself...are your body, mind and soul centered and prepared to experience God? Or are you distracted by your rough week, or all the tasks you must do following the service? Now the worship service has commenced. Are you present and participating to the best of your ability and allowing God to speak to you? Or are you entangled in your 'monkey mind', jumping from thought to thought unable to remain centered. Or are you restlessly tapping your foot and looking at your watch, thinking, "I can't wait until this is over."? Finally, worship is over. Are you prepared to obediently follow Christ and do things he has called you do, whether that is changing something about yourself or serving others? Or will you simply rush out the door to be about your own agenda? God is inviting and calling each of us but only you can decide how you will respond. Both aspects of the phrase intentional worship should encourage us to be in prayer and in reflection in both how we design worship and how we participate.

Lastly, let us examine some of the changes that have taken place in our churches, while still acknowledging we have work yet to do in creating a dynamic, intentional worship service. The largest change we worked on in this past year, has been providing both in-person and online worship services. Creating a meaningful experience for both options, taught us we needed to change how the service flowed. We have implemented a simpler or 'low church' order of service. Technology was the primary reason for this. The shifting back and forth of the camera between the speaker and screen was not an optimal experience for the online worshipers. We also learned that some elements of worship such as announcements and responsive readings may work for in-person services but do not translate well online and we risked losing people as a result. With a focus on solutions, church leadership passed a vote to contract with Kyle and Erin Martin to serve as worship directors. The churches also purchased a technology package to aid with enhancing online ministry. The learning curve has been exponential on both fronts. Kyle and I are embracing the learning curve and finding ways to work together in an efficient way. The collaborative process has been fun and exciting, and we look forward to seeing what happens as we continue. Likewise, on the technology front, we are having to learn all new technology and to no surprise, there are still bugs to be worked out. We ask that your thoughts be grace filled and please pray for us as we continue to navigate this new area.

As we continue to move forward as churches, I would ask that you all continue to keep our leaders and churches in your prayers. Please continue to be patient with us as we try new things and seek to tweak things that are not working as we would like them. I also encourage you to share any ideas you might have on worship. Maybe it is an idea for a sermon or series, or maybe there is a song you would like the church to sing or learn, or maybe you even have ideas about how to decorate the church. We value those ideas and encourage you to submit them to Kyle (BL), Judy (NA) or another member of the worship committee. Lastly, I would also encourage you to consider volunteering to serve for a season in helping design worship. If this is an interest to you, please come and talk with me for information. God bless and have a great month!

*2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV*

**THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A  
NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY;  
BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.**

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# **Missions and Ministries**

## **New Auburn UM Women of Faith**



On Thursday, June 3rd the New Auburn UM Women of Faith will meet at 1:00pm. Bring your May/June UPPER ROOM for our Monthly Devotional Bible Study.

## **New Auburn Loose Coin**



Our New Auburn UMC loose coin this month will be going to The Ronald McDonald House Charities

## **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, Betty Wallsch, Louise Hacker.**

## **NEW AUBURN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

We are still collecting items for our Church "Purse Mission Project" for the local area Abuse Centers.

The personal care items that we need for the used purses are as follows: Tooth brush, small tooth paste, deodorant, bar of bath soap, small wash cloth, and small hand towel, small bottle of shampoo, small package of facial tissue, nail clippers, snacks, personal sanitary and hygiene products. Also any other thing that you think would be nice to have in the purses.

If you bring a package of any of these items they will be divided up and then put in each of the purses that need them.

Thank You for your help with this mission project.

## **Bloomer Women's Group**

The Bloomer Women's Group will meet on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us—all women of the church are invited to attend. We are still pondering a name for our group since disbanding from the conference—we welcome any and all ideas. See you on the 1st!

HELLO  
MY NAME IS

*What's in a  
Name?*

## **Bloomer Loose Coin**

The second quarter of 2021 will see the loose coin offering go to the Bloomer UMC's Vacation Bible School.



This year VBS will be in person again at the end of July! It will be the first kids event for over a year. We'll be outside as much as possible to be safe but we're going to show the kids how special they still are to us and how awesome God is to everyone.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## **Bloomer On Going Missions**

Keep on collecting 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**...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 Gurness 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.

## **Charge Celebrations and Christian Education**

### **New Auburn Birthdays**

09 Lydia Breezee  
10 Ellen Mark  
10 Logan LaGesse  
20 Tom Moos

### **New Auburn Anniversaries**

04 Dan and Lori Hanson  
20 John and Dawn Clements

### **Bloomer Birthdays**

11 Mason Smetana  
17 Samuel Bingham  
17 Gavin McFarlane  
18 Kim Zeman  
20 Noah Olson  
23 Mary McGlothlin  
24 Hazel Clemmens

### **Bloomer Anniversaries**

01 Jason and Deanna Bingham  
03 Randy and Sue Summerfield  
03 Paul and Lisa Prince  
05 Ross and Nanci Nelson  
16 Ben and Shannon Dachel  
22 David and Karin Olson

### **Bloomer UMC VBS**

Have you heard the news? Bloomer UMC will be having Vacation Bible School this year! VBS will be July 25th from noon until 5pm. There will be games, crafts, food, Bible lessons, and lots of fun.

This year the theme is God's promises and yes the decorating scheme will be rainbows so that should tell you at least one of God's promises that we will be learning about.

Registration will open up the second week of June. We do ask that you register your children because we want to keep them safe and it will help us plan supplies. It is going to be so great!

### **Congratulations New Auburn Youth**

Congratulations Hailey and Matthew on your confirmation and Kailyn, Zach and Corbin on your graduation!



### **One Save The Date**

On June 29th New Auburn UMC will be holding a Mission and Goals meeting. It will begin at 5pm. Everyone in the church is invited to come.

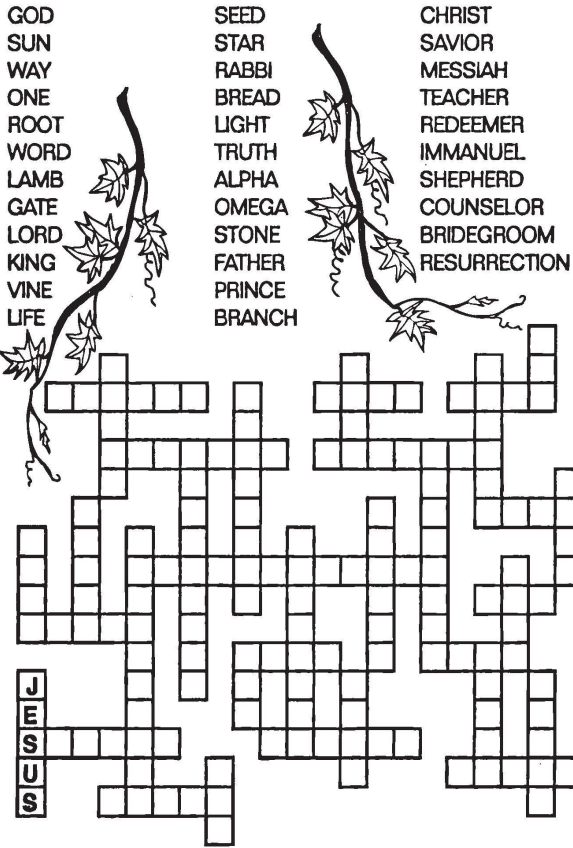


# A Little Extra

BibleWise

## And His Name Shall Be Called . . .

Jesus had many names. All the words below were used to refer to Jesus in the Bible. Fit the names into the puzzle. (Hint: Start with the longest names.)



Nell de Vries and Mary Currier. More Bible Activities You Can Do. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Publisher, 1999.

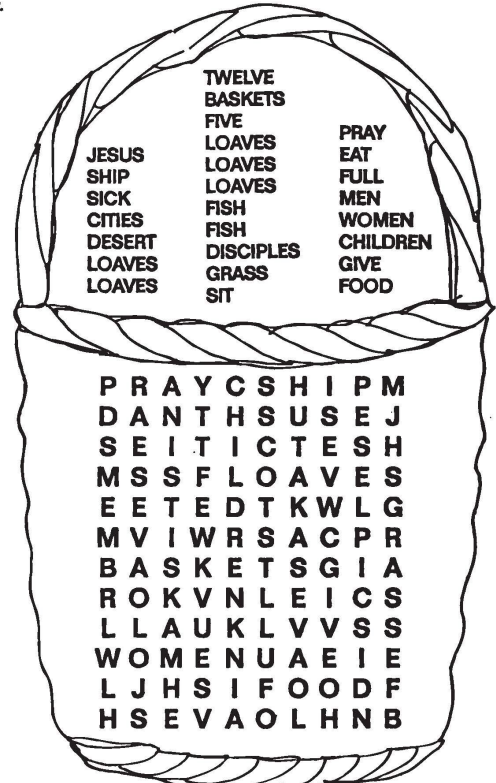
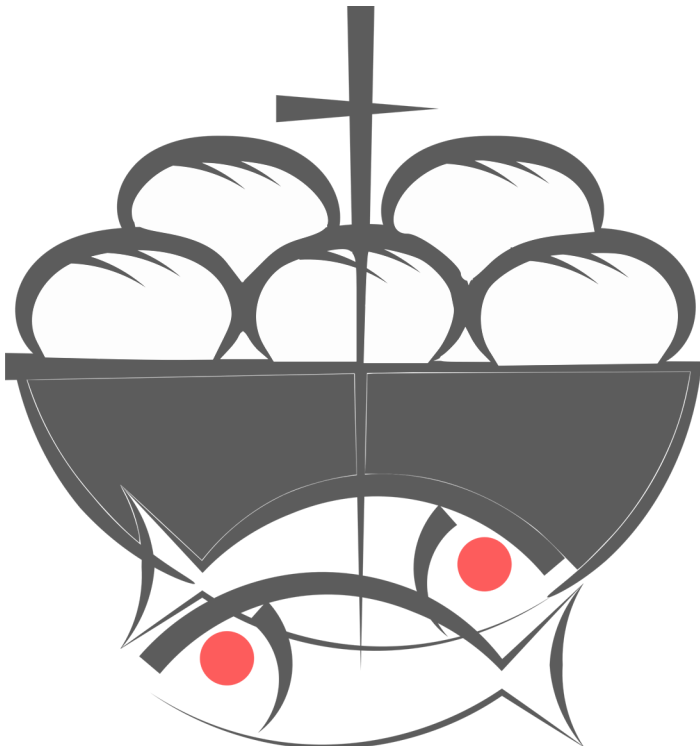


BibleWise

## Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

**Matthew 14:13-21**

Jesus fed over five thousand people with five loaves of bread and two fish. Some words from this story are hidden in the basket. Try to find all the words listed below.



Nell de Vries and Mary Currier. More Bible Activities You Can Do. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books Publisher, 1999.