

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

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as we eagerly await the joyous celebration of Christmas and prepare to usher in a new year, our hearts are filled with anticipation and gratitude. In the coming days, we will gather to honor the extraordinary gift of Jesus Christ, God's light sent into our world to illuminate our hearts, offer grace, and provide a future full of promise. This season invites us to pause, reflect, and marvel at the hope we find in Him. Yet, we are reminded that this hope is not confined to the Christmas season; it will guide us and sustain us into the year ahead and beyond.

Christmas marks the beginning of a promise that transforms our everyday lives. As we light candles, sing carols, and celebrate with family and friends, we will remember that Christ's birth was the start of a story of redemption and boundless love. He came to bring peace to a weary world, joy to the sorrowful, and hope to the brokenhearted. As we celebrate, may we prepare our hearts to embrace this hope fully, letting it shape our dreams and intentions as we step into 2025.

With the arrival of the new year, we will have the opportunity to put this hope into action. It will be a time to reflect on the past year with gratitude for God's faithfulness and to look forward with renewed purpose. Each new year brings a fresh invitation to recommit to our calling as followers of Christ: to be His hands and feet, sharing His love, building meaningful connections, and creating a legacy of faith that will last for generations. This calling is not just an individual journey but one we embark on together as a church community.

Our legacy as a church family is built on both big and small, consistent acts of love and faithfulness. We invite you to consider how you will contribute to this legacy in the coming year. Perhaps God is calling you to reach out to a neighbor who needs encouragement or to volunteer in a ministry that aligns with your passions. Maybe there is a cause close to your heart where you feel compelled to make a difference. Even the smallest gestures—a kind word, a helping hand, a moment of listening—have the power to reflect God's eternal kingdom and leave an impact.

As we prepare for the year ahead, let's also remember that our journey of faith is one of continual growth. Our hope is that each of us will remain open to the ways God wants to work in and through us. We look forward to seeing how this hope will overflow in our lives, transforming our community and strengthening our relationships. Together, let us dream bigger, love deeper, and commit to leaving a legacy of grace, love, and service.

My prayer for this season is that each member of our church family will be filled with the light of Christ and the hope He brings. May we enter the new year united in faith, ready to walk together on this journey and uplift one another. As a community bound by hope, faith, and love, we are excited for the future and the many opportunities God will provide to shine His light in our world.

May you and your loved ones experience a truly blessed and hopeful Christmas and New Year!

Charge Celebrations

New Auburn Birthdays

12/8	Lori Hanson
12/12	Betty Bowman
12/17	Mary Stille
12/17	Molly Stanford
12/30	Stephanie Davis
12/30	Amber Beal
1/6	Kristin Kouba
1/8	Mark Mullen
1/11	Jenna Super
1/12	Amanda Ebner
1/14	Kathryn Nelson
1/23	Snow Chase
1/27	Debbie North
1/27	Buckshot Trowbridge

New Auburn Anniversaries

12/10	Scott and Tricia Stuckert
1/20	Morgan and Desiree Mommsen
1/28	Ken and Sue Mullen

Bloomer Birthdays

12/3	Cayla Bingham
12/9	Michelle Stoffel
12/11	Cheryl Matthews
12/14	Barb Jarr
12/17	Abbi Olson
12/17	Ilyeanna Bourget
12/27	Thaddeus Martin
12/29	Brandon Woodman
1/2	Dennis Snyder
1/5	Lisa Prince
1/8	Devon Harrison
1/22	Sarah Bourget
1/22	Ethan Hauf

Bloomer Anniversaries

12/4	Dale and Maryann Gumness
12/7	Shawn and Aimee Stoffel
1/3	Steve and Angie Woodman

OCC Thank You

Thank you, Pastor Josh and Michelle, for promoting this ministry every week at church for the past few weeks. Thank you to all who packed shoeboxes and built shoeboxes online. Thank you to all who donated money and homemade items. Thank you to the volunteers who helped with our drop-off site duties during National Collection Week. Keep praying for this ministry as shoeboxes will be delivered from now through August of next year, spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children throughout the world.

Stay tuned to future newsletters for the total shoeboxes collected during National Collection Week. And, as always, if you have any questions about this ministry, please contact Shelly at 715-404-0636 or mjyohnk@bloomer.net.

A Veteran's Day Thank You



Thank you Veda Reed for speaking at New Auburn School Veterans Day service. She introduced us to the Women's Memorial in Washington DC.

New Auburn Trunk-or-Treat

Thank you to everyone that participated in the New Auburn Trunk-or-Treat! It was a little cold but so much fun.



Santa's Helpers



Thank You to everyone who donated to the New Auburn UMC 2024 Santa's Helpers gift giving mission through gift purchases or monetary donations.

Santa's Helpers mission was again very successful. We were able to purchase and fulfill over 40 gift requests. Your generosity is very much appreciated by the Santa's Helpers Staff at Security Bank and the New Auburn Area School District. Thank you again!



Missions and Ministries



December Sermon Series: Gift Exchange

Life hands us difficult experiences that weigh us down: despair, anxiety, regret, darkness, and feelings of meaninglessness. In the midst of all this, God holds out precious and life-giving gifts – hope, peace, joy, love, light, and purpose. This Advent season, as we prepare for gift exchanges with friends and family, we will reflect on the gifts given to us by the greatest giver of all and how we can receive and embrace those gifts even in the most difficult of times.

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.

Christmas Eve Services

Bloomer UMC's Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:00pm. The children's Sunday school class will be presenting *The Chronicles of Christmas; The Rest of the Story*.

New Auburn UMC's Christmas Eve service will begin at 6:00pm. Pastor Josh will continue the *Gift Exchange* series with *Gift Exchange: Darkness For Light*.

You are welcome to both of the service!

Volunteers in Mission

December is the time to start talking about participating in Volunteer in Mission Trip, because January is the time to sign-up if you really want to get in. That is because it is a very popular mission trip and a great opportunity for a father/child or mother/child to work together as the hands and feet of Christ.

This mission trip always begins the third Sunday of June and runs to the next Saturday. And it is in Wisconsin, at Red Cliff, Wisconsin, just above Bay Field. Most of what volunteers would be doing is home repairs and improvements...painting, and building ramps and steps into trailer homes. The volunteers will be divided into teams to complete different projects. And each team will have a team leader with the expertise needed.

My son, Elliot and I attended two years in a row, when Elliot was 11 and 12 years old and it was great fun. We each learned many skills, including the importance of team work, created many friendships in our service and fellowship and grew in our walk with the Lord. The first year we attended, Elliot and I were on the same team, however, the second year, a few of the volunteers remembered Elliot and wanted him on their team.

If you may be interested and need more information, please reach out to me, Chris Draxler, at 715 225-2983 or email me at 24x7gig@gmail.com. I hope to hear from a few of you wanting; to attend as a parent/child team or as a couple or individuals. It is a fantastic experience, one that you will treasure and want to return to again or maybe try another Volunteer in Mission trip. The possibilities are endless.

Missions & Ministries

New Auburn UM Women of Faith



Thursday December 4th
Women of Faith Christmas
Celebration. Beginning at 12
noon. Bring a dish to pass and
small bingo gifts for Christmas

Jingo. All are invited to this fun event. God Bless
and Happy New Year!

January WOF Will be the 1st Thursday in January
at 1:00. We will be continuing the Upper Room
Devotional Study.

New Auburn UMC Loose Change



Loose Change for December in New Auburn
is for the Salvation Army.

Loose Change for January in New Auburn
is for the Sunshine Fund.



Bloomer Monthly "Loose Coin" Mission



The loose coin offering for December
will go to the Bloomer/New Auburn
Community Food Pantry.

January's loose coin will go to the Family
Support Center.



Pizza and Prayer: A Growing Ministry!

We are excited to share about *Pizza and Prayer*, a
dynamic and expanding ministry reaching high
school students. Each week, students enjoy a pizza
lunch along with meaningful conversation and
prayer. This effort is a beautiful collaboration
involving pastors and churches across our Bloomer
community, working together to support and uplift
young people. As we continue to see growth and
lives impacted, we ask for your prayers and
financial support. Your contributions help us keep
providing meals and spiritual nourishment for these
students. Thank you for partnering with us to make
a difference!

People of the Word!



PoW! is very busy this
month sharing Jesus with
the community!

December 7th is the
Christmas Bazaar.
Feeding the Lord's
people is a great way to
show them love.

December 14th is
Bloomer's Christmas
Parade and PoW!
members will be handing
out cups of hot chocolate
to the people that are

part of the floats to keep them warm before the
parade starts.

Also check out the "porch pots" throughout Bloomer
and see if you can find our porch pot!

News from the PLARN group....

We are still gathering each Tuesday to weave
sleeping mats for the homeless. We have
completed 7 mats that have already been sent to
Midwest Missions and have been shipped out to
the people of Patzcuaro and Michoacan, Mexico
with many other items. The following items were
sent out on November 13, 2024....

- 1,190 Student Kits
- 410 Cover Me in Love Quilts
- 33 Bikes
- 5 Wheelchairs
- 118 Pillowcase Dresses
- 77 Sleeping Mats, that includes the 7 we made
- New Clothing donated by the NICE Foundation
- Blankets

The items weighed 24,447 pounds and the value of
the supplies was \$154,243.00.

Midwest Mission is doing fantastic work and some
of us from the Bloomer/New Auburn UMC's were a
part of that mission. When we each do our
specialized part, we can make a greater impact in
the world, in Christ's name.

For more information on Midwest Mission and how
YOU can use your talents to bless others, just
google Midwest Mission.

Missions and Ministries

You Are Invited

Mark Your Calendar! – Wednesday, January 15th, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

We are excited to welcome back Rev. Tom Stamman to Bloomer UMC on Wednesday, January 15th, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.! Many of you will remember Tom's previous visit, which left a profound impact on our youth group and congregation, and how we've since come together to actively support his incredible ministry, Impact Ministries International (IMI).

IMI continues to spread the Gospel across the globe, and Tom's Spirit-filled preaching and prophetic prayer will inspire and encourage you once again. He and his wife, Teresa, have transformed lives through their "City of Refuge" in Honduras, offering food, medical care, education, and employment to the local community. They have also launched life-saving safe houses across the United States for victims of human trafficking.

This evening will be an opportunity to reconnect with Tom's ministry and witness God's work in action. The event is open to everyone, so please invite your family, friends, and neighbors. Let's pack the house to show our support and share this experience with as many as possible!

We ask you to pray for how you and our church can continue to support and partner with this vital mission. We look forward to coming together for an unforgettable night of faith and inspiration—don't miss it!

Caps and Personal Hygiene



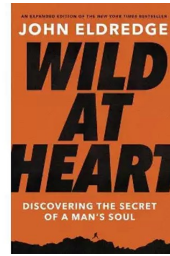
Do you have any brand new personal hygiene products or hats that you have knit that you would like to donate to various organizations? Talk to Juanita

Fransway and she can help you get them to people in need. You can find her Sunday mornings at Bloomer UMC.

A Little Christmas Trivia

1. How many towns in America are named Christmas?
2. What town was Jesus born in?
3. Who were Jesus' first visitors?

Men's Ministry



Discover the Wild at Heart Within: Join Our New Men's Ministry Launching This January!

I'm thrilled to announce the launch of our new Men's Ministry, inspired by the powerful book *Wild at Heart: Discovering the*

Secret of a Man's Soul by John Eldredge. Are you ready to embark on a journey that will awaken your heart, restore your spirit, and empower you to live life as the man you were designed to be?

Starting this January, we invite you to join us on the second Friday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Together, we will explore the wild, adventurous heart God placed within every man—a heart designed for strength, passion, and purpose.

What to Expect:

- **Inspiring Discussions:** Delve into the life-changing themes from *Wild at Heart* and discover how to embrace your true identity and God-given desires.

- **Fellowship & Brotherhood:** Connect with other men who share a passion for faith, growth, and living authentically. Forge lasting friendships in a space of honesty and encouragement.

Practical Insights & Tools: Learn how to navigate challenges, take action on your dreams, and pursue God's call on your life with boldness and conviction. Whether you're familiar with Eldredge's work or discovering it for the first time, this ministry will be a place to reignite your heart, fuel your purpose, and strengthen your relationships with God and others.

Mark Your Calendar: First Gathering: Friday, January 10th, 6:00-8:00 PM

Come ready to laugh, learn, and leave inspired to live fully alive. Don't miss the opportunity to start the year with an adventure that could transform your life!

For more information or to RSVP, contact Pastor Josh at: pastor@bloomer.net or (715)864-1446. See you there!

Ongoing Prayer Ministry



Please lift up our homebound friends in prayer.

**Bloomer and New Auburn friends:
Verona Donahue, Louise Hacker...**

Missions and Ministries

Generosity and Renewal: Giving to the Church in the New Year

As the New Year begins, people often reflect on what matters most to them. For many, faith, community, and giving back are at the heart of their reflections. Church giving has long been a vital part of these communities, enabling outreach programs, supporting the less fortunate, and maintaining places of worship. As people set new goals, the start of the year is a natural time to recommit to supporting their church financially.

With the new year comes an opportunity for church members to reflect on how they can contribute not only financially but also through volunteering and active participation. Some may set new resolutions to increase their donations, inspired by the church's needs or its impact in the community. Others might see their contributions as a way to deepen their own spiritual journey, finding personal meaning in the act of giving.

Ultimately, financial support to churches reflects a broader commitment to the community and its goals. In the coming year, church members around the world will continue to make giving a priority, helping to ensure that their communities remain strong, united, and able to serve those who need it most.

As our church transitions over the next year with a new pastor coming, I feel it is important to say that **WE!** are the Bloomer Church, The people reading this newsletter and giving their money and time will continue to do great things in the name of the Lord as long as we can. Here is a list of upcoming expenditures that we will have this upcoming year that are outside of our budget. If you are able, please commit to helping us pay for these expenses. Hopefully by the next newsletter, a lot of these things will be crossed off the list because of your generous giving. God Bless you all- Ben Olson - Finance Committee Chair.

<i>Parsonage - Planning on doing between Pastors</i>	
Replace Weather Stripping on entry doors	\$30.00
Evaluate need for new entry doors	\$1,000.00
Basement old outside access door needs sealing	\$200.00
Back Porch needs Staining/Painting	\$200.00
Electric outlets are worn & need replacing	\$100.00
Additional outlets added to living rm & bedrooms	\$500.00
Garage floor drain cover replacement 13.5x13.5	\$50.00
Garage Door trim needs painting	\$50.00
Upstairs hall window is cracked, needs replacement	\$150.00
Downstairs bathroom window replacement	\$400.00
Vinyl flooring in office & upstairs replacement	\$1,000.00
Downstairs hardwood floors need refinishing	\$2,000.00
Replace stove	\$1,000.00
Replace refrigerator	\$1,000.00
Charcoal water filter each year	\$50.00

<i>2024 Bloomer Church Maintenance Issues</i>	
Bell tower roof & railing and roof peak cornices	\$2,000.00
Charcoal water filter each year	\$50.00
Add outlet for furnace condensation pump	\$20.00
Total Needed	\$9,800.00

SCRIPTURE CAKE

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup butter — Judges 5:25
- 1 ½ cups sugar — Jeremiah 6:20
- 1 teaspoon of each: cinnamon, mace, cloves — 1 Kings 10:10
- ½ teaspoon salt — Leviticus 2:13
- 3 eggs — Isaiah 10:14
- 2 teaspoons baking powder — Luke 13:21
- 2 cups flour — 1 Kings 4:22
- ½ cup water — Genesis 24:11
- 1 tablespoon honey — Proverbs 24:13
- 1 cup raisins — 1 Samuel 30:12
- 1 cup figs — 1 Samuel 30:12
- ½ cup almonds — Genesis 43:11

DIRECTIONS

Blend butter, sugar, spices and salt.
 Beat egg yolks and add to butter mixture.
 Sift in baking powder and flour, then add the water and honey.
 Put fruit and nuts through food chopper and chop well. Fold into batter.
 Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites.
 Bake for 1 hour in 375°F oven.



Charge Conference

This year the charge's annual Charge Conference will be Friday, December 20th. The event will begin at 5:00pm at New Auburn United Methodist Church. All members of both New Auburn and Bloomer United Methodist churches are encouraged to come. This is where all members of the churches will have a say in what happens in the next year. You get to approve the budgets and the new leadership for 2025. You can ask questions and you'll get to meet our District Super Intendent if you haven't already.

A little Christmas trivia answers...

1. Two (Christmas, MI and Christmas, FL)
2. Bethlehem
3. Shepherds