

Spirit Messenger

Bloomfield & Drakesville
United Methodist Church

January 2024



Welcome to 2024!

“Come on in and make yourself comfortable.”

Have you ever had the pleasure of hearing those words? Have you ever experienced a feeling of unease when hearing those words?

I really believe that 2024 is saying that to us right now, “Come on in and make yourself comfortable”. Is it a warm invitation or does it feel like a line from a Bond villain?

I would have answered Bond villain not that long ago. All you need to do is look around the world a little and see that 2024 isn't off to a very comfortable start. War seems to be broadening and escalating, natural disasters and fires are sure to continue, and the election cycle is about to kick into high gear... make myself comfortable? That sounds more like “find some cover” than “relax and find rest”. That changed on New Year's Eve and Day for me.

Aislin spent quite a bit of New Year's Eve and Day doing 3 things: swimming, building with Legos, and watching Harry Potter movies. That's when I heard it the way it was intended, “Come on in and make yourself comfortable”. It took quite a

while for me to actually hear it, but when I did it changed everything.

It's not an invitation into a perfect place or time that is staged for complete rest and comfort. It is an invitation into a very real and imperfect time and place to create a place of comfort in the midst of it. It's an invitation to begin living out the Gospel to create a peaceful space instead of waiting for peace to be declared. It's an invitation to use this year to make your life more loving, more kind, more forgiving, more peaceful, and more fun.

There are a lot of distractions and diversions out there to hear the invitation in a different way or even miss it entirely. If you turn those off for a little bit and pick up a few Legos (or whatever might connect you with someone at that moment) I think you'll hear that invitation for what it is. It's an invitation to see for yourself that no matter what comes in 2024, the best of it is... God is with us!

Blessings & Happy New Year!

Thom

JANUARY/FEBRUARY QUAD MEALS

01/17 - Vegetable Beef Soup
01/24 - Spaghetti
01/31 - Holy Smokes BBQ
02/07 - Breakfast Casserole
02/14 - Chili
02/21 - Baked Potato Bar
02/28 - Biscuits & Gravy

CARING CREATIONS

We will meet on January 25, 2024 at 9:00-10:30 at The Quad. If you don't knit or crochet, help is always needed cutting the plastic bags that are used for creating the mats. Bring scissors or projects you are working on and join us for a time of fellowship. Caring Creations is open to anyone. Join us!!

FOOD & DIAPER MINISTRY

The Quad is open each Saturday morning from 9:00-11:00 am to provide diapers and wipes to families in need. Food items that include shelf-stable foods, hygiene products and frozen meats are offered. To continue this ministry, there is a need for volunteers. Please notify the church office or contact Penny Warren if you are willing to serve.

COMMUNITY FOOD BOXES

The four community food boxes and the food cabinet at the church have seen an increase in use this winter. Food items are always needed, especially macaroni and cheese, pasta (spaghetti noodles), soups, instant potatoes, cookies, dish soap, laundry soap, toothpaste, and paper towels. There is a labeled container in the entryway for any donations. All donations are appreciated.

BUMC CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

Jessica will be working on updating your contributions statements for the 2023 year over the next couple of weeks. She will send out the Statements by the end of January. Please make sure to fill out a connect card with your current information to be sure you receive yours, and keep an eye on your email. If you haven't received it by February 5th, please contact the church office.

BUMC UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The UWFaith will not meet in January. The next meeting will be February 7 at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Meeting details will follow in the February newsletter. All women of the church are invited to attend.

DUMC Epiphany

During Epiphany we celebrate the manifestations of our Lord. At Christ's circumcision, we celebrate our Lord's manifestation as the "light to the Gentiles" and the "glory of Israel." In Christ's baptism, we celebrate our Lord's manifestation as the Son of God with whom God himself is well pleased. And, as our Lord is presented to the Wise Men, we celebrate Christ's manifestation to the entire world. Epiphany is our time to focus on the manifestation and the appearance of our Lord as the Messiah, sent by God to free the world from sin, death, and condemnation. May this time of Epiphany help us all to focus on Jesus' manifestations in our own lives, through baptism, the Word, and the Lord's Supper, because in Christ's manifestation as God's answer to our sin, we all find life, hope, and salvation. May the Lord bless and keep you all during this Epiphany season.

RAINBOWS & FRIENDS

The month of December at Rainbows and Friends was so much fun! We all love Christmas so much! We focused on the Nativity and Jesus' birthday. All of the children really enjoyed the beautiful decorations around the church. It was nice to have our program in the church sanctuary and perform for our families in front of the big tree and the nativity figures on the platform. We added a soup supper feature to our program night and many families were very appreciative that they didn't have to fix supper that night. We enjoyed soup and cookies donated from Christ Community Church, Pulaski Mennonite Church, and The Drakesville United Methodist Church. As the New Year begins we are beginning to make plans for our summer programming. We are continually grateful for the support we receive from the Bloomfield United Methodist Church and surrounding churches. Happy New Year from Rainbows and Friends Christian Preschool and Childcare!

-Tracy Emmons Director

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Emily Bowersox 01/15

If you would like your Birthday Celebrated in our Newsletter, please contact the BUMC office!

BUMC CHURCH CENTER

Please join our church family on the app, Church Center! You can download the app from the app store, or you can use the website:

<https://the-bloomfield-united-methodist-church.churchcenter.com/home>

Through this website, you can create your own profile and view other profiles in the church directory. You can choose what information you would like to share with others and keep everything up to date. You can view your contribution statements at any time, and you can give to the church if you would like to. This is the best way to keep us up to date with your mailing preferences and contact information.

BUMC GIVING

We would like to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for the ways you have supported our Church. From volunteering, to financial support, to being present on Sunday mornings, to your thoughts and prayers over the years; we could not be where we are today without you. As we strive to be the best that we can be for our community, know that you are a huge part of our successes. If you would like to volunteer at the church or the Quad, please contact Jessica Wortmann via text at 641-242-3174 or call at 641-664-3206. If you feel called to give financially, we have been working on making it easier for you. Here are the ways we currently have available: Sunday Morning offering, Mailing your givings, Scanning this QR Code, Texting any amount to 84321, or visiting:



<https://the-bloomfield-united-methodist-church.churchcenter.com/giving>

Thank you for all of your support

Winter HOURS

Drakesville Worship Service: Sundays @ 9:00 am

Bloomfield Worship Service: Sundays @ 10:30 am

The BUMC office hours are Mondays-Thursdays 8:30-3:30 PM.

January 2024 - APRIL 2024
BUMC Worship Volunteers

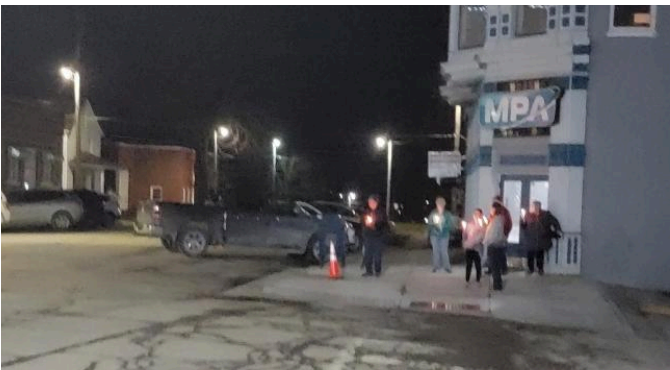
Date	Greeter/Usher	Fellowship	Communion
1/7/2024	Becky & Sam Ford	Rachel Stoltzmann Neil Kirkhart	Dianne Park Julie Griffin
1/14/2024	Brian Gutting Jerry Kincart	Chris & Stephanie Burton	
1/21/2024	Gloria Garner JoAnn Augspurger	Barb Williams Barb Gravett	
1/28/2024	Joe & Nancy Plowman	Jamie & Lisa Warren	
2/4/2024	John & Helen Schroeder	Tony & Kim Burton	John & Helen Schroeder
2/11/2024	Luke & Danielle Whitacre	Yvonne & Sid Maxwell	
2/18/2024	Will & Natalie Bolin	Gloria Garner Elaine Perry	
2/25/2024	Susan Howard & Karen Augspurger	Bob & Carol Tade	
3/3/2024	Dianne Park Teresa Mathews	Steve & Pasty Dent	Joe & Nancy Plowman
3/10/2024	Kala Mulder & Boys	Becky & Sam Ford	
3/17/2024	Tony & Kim Burton	Nancy Squire Julie Griffin	
3/24/2024	Mark & Penny Warren	Scott Shively Cassie Plowman	
3/31/2024	Easter		
4/7/2024	Yvonne & Sid Maxwell	Robert & Elaine VonBon	Michelle Grove Brandy Summers
4/14/2024	Katie & Aislin Bryant	Joe & Nancy Plowman	

4/21/2024	Alan Janssen Jerry Kincart	Luke & Danielle Whitacre	
4/28/2024	Garl Norman Shala Garcia	Mark & Penny Warren	

*If you are unable to help on the date listed, please contact the office asap

** If you would like to be added to the next list or as a substitute, please contact the office!

Here are a few photos from our 2023 Christmas Season!



Bloomfield United Methodist Church
PO Box 166
Bloomfield, IA 52537

**Bloomfield United
Methodist Church**

PO Box 166
401 E North Street
Bloomfield, IA 52537

Call-641-664-3206

Text-641-242-3174

bumc@netins.net

Worship
10:30 am

Spirit Messenger

Bloomfield & Drakesville
United Methodist Parish

Pastor
Thom Bryant
515-779-5707
pthombryant@gmail.com

**Drakesville United
Methodist Church**

PO Box 114
210 N Madison Street
Drakesville, IA 52552

641-722-3210

Drakesvilleumc22@gmail.com

Worship
9:00 am

*** The Quad * 202 S Madison St * TheQuadBUMC@gmail.com * (641)242-3174 ***

January

BUMC Website, DUMC, Holidays in United States, Quad Website

Jan 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 New Year's Day	2	3 5pm - No Community Meal	4 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	5	6 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
7 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship 11am - One Board Meeting	8	9 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	10 5pm - Community Meal	11 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	12	13 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - DUMC Men's Breakfast 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
14 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	17 5pm - Community Meal 6:30pm - DUMC Ad Board Meeting	18 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	19	20 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes, 7pm - Trivia Night
21 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	22	23 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	24 5pm - Community Meal	25 9am - Caring Creations 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	26	27 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
28 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	29	30 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	31 5pm - Community Meal	1 First Day of Black History Month 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	2	3 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,

February

BUMC Website, DUMC, Holidays in United States, Quad Website

Feb 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	29	30 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	31 5pm - Community Meal	1 First Day of Black History Month 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	2	3 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
4 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	5	6 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	7 9am - UWF Meeting 5pm - Community Meal	8 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	9	10 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - DUMC Men's Breakfast 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
11 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	12	13 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	14 Valentine's Day 5pm - Community Meal	15 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	16	17 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
18 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	19 OFFICE CLOSED Presidents' Day	20 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	21 5pm - Community Meal	22 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	23	24 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
25 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	26	27 7pm - Stirred, Not Shaken	28 5pm - Community Meal	29 9am - Caring Creations 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	1	2