

Spirit Messenger

Bloomfield & Drakesville
United Methodist Church

March 2025



CASSIE PLOWMAN - PRAYER

I have started my course study for Lay Ministry. I am so thankful for the support of the congregation and wanted to share some reflections from the courses as I go.

My first course in February was: Shaping the Prayers of the People. It led me to reflect on prayer and its place in my life: which has been inconsistent at best.

I have some memory of prayer throughout my life: Repeating the 'As I lay me down to sleep' before bed as a child and wondering who was keeping my soul or why.

My Dad praying in what felt like old English before big family meals.

Praying the Lord's Prayer as a teenager wondering why God wasn't doing his part of not leading me into temptation. (please note the sarcasm here) Other than recited prayers, which I did not dissect or take to heart as I should have, I don't remember anyone teaching me how to pray and it never felt natural when I tried.

I only prayed when I really felt hopeless or in need and even then, my mind would race with thoughts of doubt and unbelief. My cynicism would not allow me to commit, even for those brief moments. I took an Alpha course several years ago and it was the first time I felt like I could pray without doubt creeping in and that was because it kept it simple and there was a system.

Thank you: gratitude
I'm Sorry: where you have fallen short
Please: ask for others and yourself

I will quote Nicky Gumbel: 'Keep it simple, keep it honest, keep it going'

This was also the first time it occurred to me that I can pray anywhere. I can talk to him at any time. The course also reminded me it is 'when you pray, not if'.

It is an expected part of building a relationship with God.

Jesus told us to pray to 'Abba': the father who loves us. I almost always start my prayers with Heavenly Father because that is the relationship I feel with Him now and I feel like prayer has been one of the most important parts of establishing that relationship in my faith journey. It is what reminds me that I have a personal connection with God and can talk to and listen for Him in everyday life.

The reading for the class was: Shaping the Prayers of the People: The Art of Intercession by Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher. This and the course focused more on public prayer and how this is different from your own personal prayers. I don't know about you, but public prayer has always been intimidating for me. I often lose my train of thought or fear I may not have the right words to adequately share another's concerns or celebrations.

I will pass along some of the key points that I took:

There are many different names for God. Pick the name or address that feels appropriate for the setting or application. Some examples are: 'Almighty God', 'Merciful God', 'Almighty and Everlasting Lord', 'Delivery God', 'Advocate', 'Author and Perfecter of our Faith'

Prayer for self and prayer in public should be approached differently. Where my prayers may be informal and very personal, public prayers should be structured according to the situation and what is being prayed over and also kept general or expansive enough for everyone in the audience. There may be many prayers on people's hearts that they have not shared aloud and those should be considered also.

Being mindful of not preaching during prayer- you can reference what you will speak about to tie it in, but do not try to convey a message :Prayer is speaking to God for the people, Preaching is speaking to the people from God.

It's OK to use resources like a worship book or the above textbook for prayer ideas: take sections you like, add or modify for your application. Be open to what others are sharing, open yourself to God, as you are also praying to Him during this time. Be authentic.

I hope we can all be more confident in our ability to pray with others or in public settings when we are called. I would love to hear from you and how you view prayer, things that you find helpful or things you struggle with!

- Cassie

A Face in the Crowd...

The Season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and ends on Easter Sunday (April 20th). It is a time of reflection, repentance, and renewal for many Christians across the world. It starts with the Imposition of Ashes (when people run around with dirty foreheads) as an outward sign of our internal acknowledgement that this life in this skin is temporary. "From dust and ash you have come, and to dust and ash you shall return."

It is typically the least popular of acts among protestant Christians, especially over the last 30 years. This isn't just because it's something that happens on Wednesday instead of Sunday. As a matter of fact it's something even harder for most Protestants to fight than scheduling, location, or music selections... its vanity.

We like clean faces.
Period.

We don't like having dirt, or ashes, on our forehead. I know this after over a decade of research and participation in the Imposition in all kinds of ways, places, people, and times. I've offered the Imposition in coffee shops, off-ramps, sanctuaries, hospitals, prison, grocery stores, and fitness centers. I've done this in early morning hours, as people go to and from work, lunchtimes, and in the late evenings. Most have walked or driven by without eye contact, some have yelled things, one has even thrown something in my direction with less than encouraging intent. Some have even been brave enough to share... "I'll just look silly or stand out and I don't do that."

I get it, I really do. This isn't an admonishment, it's understanding. It's okay.

It also doesn't change the reality or the importance I see in the Imposition and Lent as a whole. I won't

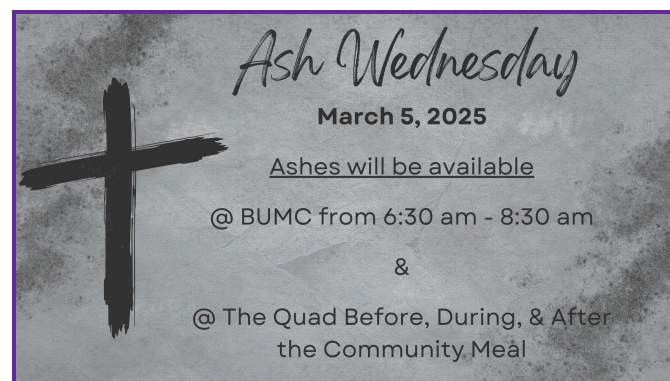
change that I will keep making the ashes or the experience available. It won't change that one day we each return to dust and ash. It won't change how I or (dare I say) God see you as a Christian.

It might change how some co-workers, friends, family, and a barista look at you. It really might change the thing it's supposed to change the most... the way you see yourself. It is called an Imposition after all.

You might see yourself a little dirty, a little different. You might forget it is there and wonder why others are making or avoiding eye contact, talking more or less in your presence, making faces of surprise or smiling more. Then you see the ash on your hand or nose after touching your forehead. Then as you wash your hands you catch the image in the mirror and fully remember... We may all return to ashes, but I am more than just a face in the crowd.

I am beloved.
Dirty face and all.

Blessings!
P Thom



COMMUNITY MEALS AT THE QUAD

03/05-Vegetable Beef Soup
03/12-Goulash
03/19-Chili
03/26-Sloppy Joes
04/02-Breakfast Casserole
04/09-Spaghetti

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Tucker Bowersox 03/7
Jessica Wortmann 03/17
Vince Tyson 03/29

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

BLOOMFIELD UWF

On Wednesday, March 5, UWFaith will meet in the Fellowship Hall at church at 9:00 am. Hostesses are Jane Bigsby and Barb Gravett. The Program will be presented by Dianne Park. All women of the church are invited to attend. Plans will be made for the Community Baby Shower sponsored by the UWFaith Conference Be Bold Grant. More information will follow in the April newsletter. The 2025 Program Booklets are completed and will be distributed at the meeting.

CARING CREATIONS

Caring Creations will meet on Thursday, March 20, from 9:00-10:30. Old (no longer used) T-shirts are needed to make shopping bags for Families Forward (Bidwell-Riverside). Please donate any T-shirts you no longer wear that are free of holes or stains for this project. They can be left in the containers in the church entrance. Thank you for helping support this ministry.

BUMC CLEANING SERVICE

Bloomfield United Methodist Church is currently looking for bids to clean the church on Sundays following our weekly service. For more information or to submit your bid, contact our office via email: bloomfieldunitedmethodist@gmail.com, Text: 641-242-3174, or phone: 641-664-3206.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study group meets each Monday evening at 7:00 pm in the Chapel at the Church. The book, Experiencing the Heart of Jesus, by Max Lucado is a 52-week study encompassing a variety of topics such as experiencing the: Freedom of Jesus; Joy of Jesus, Love of Jesus, Power of Jesus, Forgiveness of Jesus, Prayer of Jesus and Hope of Jesus. Bring your Bible to delve into these topics. During Lent we will take a break from this study to explore a Lenten Study. All women of the church are encouraged to attend and bring a friend. If you have questions, contact Dianne Park.

BUMC PRAYER CHAIN

We are looking for individuals that would like to be a part of our prayer chain. We are starting a new prayer chain from scratch. So, even if you were on the previous list, please contact the office to let us know that you would like to remain on that list. This is a wonderful ministry that you can do from the comfort of your home. When a prayer request is made, you will receive a text specifying the person and general nature of the prayer (illness, surgery, loss). Please consider texting the church office @ (641)242-3174 to become part of this ministry. Also, if you or a family member are in need of prayer, please notify the church office so that the prayer chain can be initiated.

DUMC ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

We served 66 people at our Valentine's Day dinner followed with musical entertainment from Joe n Lori king. We will be having a St Patrick's Day brunch and fellowship on March 16th at 10:00 am

DUMC UWF

UWF has had several books donated to the church library. We are looking for 1 if not 2 bookcases to put these on.

BUMC GIVING

We would like to take a moment to thank 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 us via text at 641-242-3174 or call at 641-664-3206. If you feel called to give financially, 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
BUMC office hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 am-3:00 pm
The BUMC office will be closed on 3/13-3/17

Now Accepting Bids for Cleaning Services

Bloomfield United Methodist Church is currently looking for bids to clean the church on Sundays following our weekly service.

For More Information or to Submit your bid:
641-242-3174
bloomfieldunitedmethodist@gmail.com

the quad

WEEKLY MEAL
SEASONAL
WEDNESDAYS 5 - 6:30 PM

DIAPER AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION
TWICE A MONTH
1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS 9 - 11 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP
9 AM AT DRAKESVILLE UMC
10:30 AM AT BLOOMFIELD UMC

FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND UPDATES
FOLLOW 'THE QUAD' ON FACEBOOK
@THEQUAD641 ON INSTAGRAM

BUMC events

10AM

SUNDAYS

Kid's Church

7PM

MONDAYS

Women's Bible Study

6PM

THURSDAYS

Choir Practice

6PM

THURSDAYS

"We Are Not Saints"
AA Meeting

7PM

THURSDAYS

Praise Team Practice

View all upcoming Events at:
<http://www.bloomfieldmethodistchurch.org/calendar.html>

Drakesville United Methodist
Church

MARCH EVENTS



- 08 United Men In Faith 9am
- 12 United Women in Faith 9am
- 16 St. Patrick's Day Brunch 10am
- 19 AD Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 28 High Five Friday 7:45am

QUAD MENU MARCH

03-05

VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP,
CRACKERS, AND CORNBREAD

03-12

GOULASH, BREAD & BUTTER
SANDWICH, AND GREEN BEANS

03-19

CHILI, CORNBREAD, AND CRACKERS

03-26

SLOPPY JOES, BAKED BEANS, AND
CHIPS

CHOIR UPDATE



CHOIR IS **CANCELED** FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES

6:00 PM MARCH 20TH - PRACTICE

10:30 AM MARCH 23RD - SERVICE

6:00 PM MARCH 27TH - PRACTICE

10:30 AM MARCH 30TH - SERVICE



**March-May 2025
BUMC Worship Volunteers**

Date	Usher/Greeter	Fellowship	Communion
03/02/25	Katie & Aislin Bryant	Garl & Shala Norman	John & Helen Schroeder
03/09/25	Steve & Patsy Dent	Sid & Yvonne Maxwell	
03/16/25	Vince & Amy Tyson	Tony & Kim Burton	
03/23/25	Joe & Nancy Plowman	Bob & Carol Tade	
03/30/25	Brandy & Andy Summers	Teresa Mathews & Nancy Squire	
04/06/25	Cassie Plowman & Scott Shively	Julie Griffin & Dianne Park	Will & Natalie Bolin
04/13/25	Luke & Danielle Whitacre	Becky & Sam Ford	
04/20/25	EASTER		
04/27/25	Tony & Kim Burton	Robert & Elaine VonBon	
05/04/25	Garl & Shala Norman	Barb Williams & Barb Gravett	Alan Janssen & Jerry Kincart
05/11/25	Chris & Stephanie Burton	John & Helen Schroeder	
05/18/25	Jamie & Lisa Warren	Vince & Amy Tyson	
05/25/25	Yvonne & Sid Maxwell	Gloria Garner & JoAnn Augspurger	

*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!

Bloomfield United Methodist Church
PO Box 166
Bloomfield, IA 52537

<p>Bloomfield United Methodist Church</p> <p>PO Box 166 401 E North Street Bloomfield, IA 52537</p> <p>Call-641-664-3206 Text-641-242-3174</p> <p>bumc@netins.net</p> <p>Worship 10:30 am</p>	<p>Spirit Messenger</p> <p>Bloomfield & Drakesville United Methodist Parish</p>	<p>Drakesville United Methodist Church</p> <p>PO Box 114 210 N Madison Street Drakesville, IA 52552</p> <p>641-722-3210</p> <p>Drakesvilleumc22@gmail.com</p> <p>Worship 9:00 am</p>
<p>* The Quad * 202 S Madison St * TheQuadBUMC@gmail.com * (641)242-3174 *</p>		

March

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

Mar 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes, 11am - Reserved
2 9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	3 7pm - Women's Bible Study	4	5 9am - UWF Meeting 5pm - Community Meal	6 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	7	8 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - DUMC Men's Breakfast
9 Daylight Saving Time starts 9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	10 6:30pm - Historical Preservation 7pm - Women's Bible Study	11	12 9am - UWF 5pm - Community Meal	13 12:30pm - Office Closed 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	14 Office Closed	15 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
16 9am - DUMC Worship 10am - St. Patrick's Day Brunch 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	17 Office Closed St. Patrick's Day 7pm - Women's Bible Study	18	19 5pm - Community Meal 6:30pm - AD Board Meeting	20 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - NO Choir Practice	21	22 8am - Coffee with the Guys
23 9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship 11:45am - One Board Meeting	24 7pm - Women's Bible Study	25	26 5pm - Community Meal	27 9am - Caring Creations 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - NO Choir Practice	28 7:45am - High Five Friday	29 8am - Coffee with the Guys
30 9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	31 7pm - Women's Bible Study	1	2	3	4	5

April

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

Apr 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
			9am - UWF Meeting 5pm - Community Meal	6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice		8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	2pm - Blood Drive 7pm - Women's Bible Study		5pm - Community Meal	6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - DUMC Men's Breakfast 3pm - Reserved
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	6:30pm - Historical Preservation 7pm - Women's Bible Study	Tax Day	5pm - Community Meal 6:30pm - AD Board	6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice	Office Closed	8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - FREE Diapers, Wipes,
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Easter Sunday 7am - Sunrise Service 7:30am - Breakfast, Egg Hunt 9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	Easter Monday Office Closed 7pm - Women's Bible Study		5pm - Community Meal	9am - Caring Creations 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice		8am - Coffee with the Guys
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:30am - BUMC Worship	7pm - Women's Bible Study		5pm - Community Meal			