
Spirit Messenger

Bloomfield & Drakesville
United Methodist Church

May 2026



May is always a month packed with big events, milestones, and transformations. From May Day to Memorial Day, the calendar is full of school events, celebrations, graduations, and increasing outdoor activities. Yards and fields are getting full and flush with color in ways they normally do, along with a few changes here and there.

Here, for the Bryants, those changes are largely seen as cardboard. Boxes are being filled and stacked in the parsonage in preparation for moving day. Labels leave hints and suggestions of their contents and what room they belong to. Books, photos, clothing, toys, Living Room, Basement, Master Bedroom and similar descriptions are written in sharpie to guide the process.

What I do not have a box for is all the awesomeness of our time together to take with us. There is no way I can fully pack up all the incredible times, places, people, and memories we have from our time together here. We walked through and witnessed so many amazing things together here in Davis County.

There is no way that we can fit all the gratitude and love that we have for this beautiful community into any size box or moving truck. You will forever be

a wonderful part of our stories and lives that will help shape all our future adventures. Some weirdo keeps running around saying “God is always in the timing”. I find myself approaching May of 2026 to be just as true as any other time.

We are so excited for all that is ahead for us in NE Iowa and for you here! You have an amazing new pastor, Kim Dewey, coming in. I know that you will fall in love with her and that she is already falling in love with you. Her gifts, graces, experiences, knowledge, and so many other amazing strengths are most definitely proof of God’s timing at work!

I know May is going to move fast, but if you see a pair of orange shoes heading in your direction, slow down for a second. I want to give you a high-five or a hug if you are okay with it. I want to take a moment and genuinely say thank you for ALL that you do and have done. I want to say a quick prayer of thanksgiving and blessing. I want just one more moment to remind each other of the most important thing of all.

That the best of it is...
God is with us!
I Love You! - P Thom

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE

As many of you have heard by now, I will be resigning at the end of May. My last day will be on May 29th. I have loved working here and the opportunities to serve in our missions to help our community. However, due to some reductions in the position, it is no longer financially sustainable for me to continue in this position while supporting my family. After careful consideration, I have decided to pursue other opportunities. I want to thank you all for the opportunity to work with you. I will miss you all, and I hope to see you out in the community! I wish the Bloomfield United Methodist Church, the Drakesville United Methodist Church, and all of you the best for your futures. - Jessica Wortmann

CARING CREATIONS

Caring Creations met for a workday in March. Our main focus was on making t-shirt bags for the shoppers at Bidwell Food Pantry in Des Moines. We completed 71 that day. Since then, we have made another 30 or more, so we have plenty to take to Des Moines at this time. We also have a number of plastic sleeping mats to deliver to them. In April, we met on the normal meeting day, and we worked on more scarves for the Vets in the home in Marshalltown. We are part of the program called Knit Your Bit that is sponsored by the World War Two Museum in New Orleans. We will have our normal meeting on May 21 at 9:00 - 10:30. It was discussed at our last work day that we should try to meet for another work day in June if possible. I will let you know the date when we meet on the 21st. Elaine VonBon

2026 GRADUATES RECOGNITION @ DUMC

Please join us for a recognition service on Sunday, May 3rd, at 9 am to honor our graduates, Brynn Davis and Mason Simmons. Refreshments and fellowship to follow. Cards and well wishes are appreciated that day as we show our love and support as they begin their next chapter. Contact Andi B or Sherry P. if questions.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Michelle Johnson 5/8
Marcia Ramseyer 05/12
Coleman 05/21
Olivia Grove 05/27

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

ONE WORSHIP SERVICE

Join us at the Bloomfield United Methodist Church on May 24th at 10 am for a joint worship service. Help us celebrate Thom, Katie, and Aislin as they prepare for their big move!



RUMMAGE SALES

Drakesville:

Drakesville United Women in Faith
Annual Rummage & Bake Sale
Friday May 1st 8-5
Saturday May 2nd 8-12

Bloomfield:

United Women In Faith
Spring Rummage Sale

May 6 12:00 - 8:00 Full Price
May 7 7:00 - 7:00 Half Price
May 8 7:00 - 3:00 Bag Day

United Methodist Church
401 E North St.
Bloomfield, IA

“40/41”

by Emily Hartwig-Bowersox

Six-seven. Six-seven. It's a “cool” thing the kids are saying now these days. In the 70's it was “Far Out.” In the 80's it was “Rad” or “Totally”. In the 90's it was “Fly,” “The Bomb” or even the cool “All That and a bag of chips!” In the 2000's it was “Sick” or “Sweet” and I even remember throwing around the word, “Word.” Six-seven seems to be the new, the now, the coolest of all time, or so my kiddos seem to think. You know what number I like better than six or seven or six-seven?

Forty-one!

No, forty-one is not my age. No, I am not forty yet either. However, forty-one is a significant number in the Bible. Remember Noah and the Ark? It rained and poured for forty days and nights. Remember Moses in the dessert? 40 years in Midian as a shepherd after he had fled Egypt after killing an Egyptian and then another 40 years after leading the Israelites in the wilderness after their exodus before they could enter the Promised Land. Remember David and Goliath? Goliath challenged the Israelites daily for 40 days. Remember Jonah and the Whale? Jonah warned the city of Nineveh that they had 40 days to repent. Remember Jesus' Ministry? Jesus had crucial periods of divine testing, spiritual preparation and transformation while being tempted by Satan. Then he appeared to His disciples for 40 days teaching them about the Kingdom of God, before ascending to Heaven. There are so many other examples of forty in the Bible, but forty is repeated several times, with different people, different settings and an example of a different problem. However, they have something in common, besides the number forty. God. God was there. God is here. God is everywhere. He always has, and always will be.

Genesis 6-9 CEB

Wickedness in the World

6 When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, 2 the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. 3 Then the Lord said, “My Spirit will not contend with[a] humans forever, for they are

mortal[b]; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.”

4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days—and also afterward—when the sons of God went to the daughters of humans and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

5 The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. 6 The Lord regretted that he had made human beings on the earth, and his heart was deeply troubled. 7 So the Lord said, “I will wipe from the face of the earth the human race I have created—and with them the animals, the birds and the creatures that move along the ground—for I regret that I have made them.” 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.

Noah and the Flood

9 This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God. 10 Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

11 Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight and was full of violence. 12 God saw how corrupt the earth had become, for all the people on earth had corrupted their ways. 13 So God said to Noah, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them. I am surely going to destroy both them and the earth. 14 So make yourself an ark of cypress[c] wood; make rooms in it and coat it with pitch inside and out. 15 This is how you are to build it: The ark is to be three hundred cubits long, fifty cubits wide and thirty cubits high.[d] 16 Make a roof for it, leaving below the roof an opening one cubit[e] high all around.[f] Put a door in the side of the ark and make lower, middle and upper decks. 17 I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish. 18 But I will establish my covenant with you, and you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you. 19

You are to bring into the ark two of all living creatures, male and female, to keep them alive with you. 20 Two of every kind of bird, of every kind of animal and of every kind of creature that moves along the ground will come to you to be kept alive.

21 You are to take every kind of food that is to be eaten and store it away as food for you and for them.”

22 Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

7 The Lord then said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and your whole family, because I have found you righteous in this generation. 2 Take with you seven pairs of every kind of clean animal, a male and its mate, and one pair of every kind of unclean animal, a male and its mate, 3 and also seven pairs of every kind of bird, male and female, to keep their various kinds alive throughout the earth. 4 Seven days from now I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights, and I will wipe from the face of the earth every living creature I have made.”

5 And Noah did all that the Lord commanded him.

6 Noah was six hundred years old when the floodwaters came on the earth. 7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives entered the ark to escape the waters of the flood. 8 Pairs of clean and unclean animals, of birds and of all creatures that move along the ground, 9 male and female, came to Noah and entered the ark, as God had commanded Noah. 10 And after the seven days the floodwaters came on the earth.

11 In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, on the seventeenth day of the second month—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened. 12 And rain fell on the earth forty days and forty nights.

13 On that very day Noah and his sons, Shem, Ham and Japheth, together with his wife and the wives of his three sons, entered the ark. 14 They had with them every wild animal according to its kind, all livestock according to their kinds, every creature that moves along the ground according to its kind and every bird according to its kind, everything with wings. 15 Pairs of all creatures that have the breath of life in them came to Noah and entered the ark. 16 The animals going in were

male and female of every living thing, as God had commanded Noah. Then the Lord shut him in.

17 For forty days the flood kept coming on the earth, and as the waters increased they lifted the ark high above the earth. 18 The waters rose and increased greatly on the earth, and the ark floated on the surface of the water. 19 They rose greatly on the earth, and all the high mountains under the entire heavens were covered. 20 The waters rose and covered the mountains to a depth of more than fifteen cubits.[a][b] 21 Every living thing that moved on land perished—birds, livestock, wild animals, all the creatures that swarm over the earth, and all mankind. 22 Everything on dry land that had the breath of life in its nostrils died. 23 Every living thing on the face of the earth was wiped out; people and animals and the creatures that move along the ground and the birds were wiped from the earth. Only Noah was left, and those with him in the ark.

Let's fast forward approximately 2000 years. The first Easter.

Mark 16 CEB

Empty tomb

16 When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus’ dead body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. 3 They were saying to each other, “Who’s going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?” 4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. (And it was a very large stone!) 5 Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. 6 But he said to them, “Don’t be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified.[a] He has been raised. He isn’t here. Look, here’s the place where they laid him. 7 Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you.” 8 Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.[b]

Endings Added Later

[9 They promptly reported all of the young man's instructions to those who were with Peter.

Afterward, through the work of his disciples, Jesus sent out, from the east to the west, the sacred and undying message of eternal salvation. Amen.]

[[9 After Jesus rose up early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. 10 She went and reported to the ones who had been with him, who were mourning and weeping. 11 But even after they heard the news, they didn't believe that Jesus was alive and that Mary had seen him.

12 After that he appeared in a different form to two of them who were walking along in the countryside. 13 When they returned, they reported it to the others, but they didn't believe them. 14 Finally he appeared to the eleven while they were eating. Jesus criticized their unbelief and stubbornness because they didn't believe those who saw him after he was raised up. 15 He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the good news to every creature. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever doesn't believe will be condemned. 17 These signs will be associated with those who believe: they will throw out demons in my name. They will speak in new languages. 18 They will pick up snakes with their hands. If they drink anything poisonous, it will not hurt them. They will place their hands on the sick, and they will get well."

19 After the Lord Jesus spoke to them, he was lifted up into heaven and sat down on the right side of God. 20 But they went out and proclaimed the message everywhere. The Lord worked with them, confirming the word by the signs associated with them

Noah was a tenth generation descendant of Adam. Noah was a righteous man in a corrupt world who at 600 years old God chose to make a massive ark. Chosen by God for his unwavering faith by obeying God's seemingly impossible command: to build the ark. Can you imagine, God instructed Noah to build a huge vessel, 300 cubits long or about 450 feet, to house his family and two of every kind of unclean land animal and birds, seven pairs of clean animals, so that they could repopulate the earth after the flood. Not a

professional, an amateur. Because of Noah's obedience, he saved humanity and made the Messiah's arrival possible.

Jesus, our Savior, God's only son. Matthew 16:15-17 provides us with the best starting point, confirmed by Christ Himself, in answering the question, "Who is Jesus?" He said to [His disciples], "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven." The God-revealed answer is that Jesus is the promised Messiah, the literal Son of the Supreme Being of all the universe. Of course, He is a great deal more than this, but these two facts are the most foundational to our spiritual understanding of this wonderful savior. They give us the basis of His relationship to us and our future, as well as His relationship to Him being the bridge between man and God.

The number forty is used in the Bible to represent a period of testing, waiting or preparation for the new to come! Forty-one signifies the completion of that period and the beginning of something new. The dawn of a new day! A second chance! Arrival of hope after trials and tribulations! Forty-one seems like just an ordinary number, until you understand the significance of it in the Bible. It's the trials and tribulations. It's when the rain stops. It's when you finally break through years of hardship. It's victory after defeating your taunter. It's the clarity of your journey and call in life. Forty-one. A symbolic number with so much more meaning than just a number.

What does this mean for you? It means "Your 41 is coming!" Continue to hope and persevere for the new season, the second chance. It's our reminder that God is not finished with us yet! I hope you remember God's covenant with Noah every time you see a rainbow and remember yourself, not to give up! The next time you hear someone say six-seven, reply "forty-one." Continue to hope and pray for better days! And always, trust in God's plan! Amen!

Bloomfield United Methodist Church

CHURCH SERVICES

Drakesville – 9:00 AM

Bloomfield - 10:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

TUESDAY-FRIDAY

9am-3pm

* On canceled and no school days office hours are worked remotely*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Text: 641-242-3174

Call: 641-664-3206

Email: bumc@netins.net or
BloomfieldUnitedMethodist@gmail.com

IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

Call/Text Pastor Thom: 515-779-5707

BUMC Office Closed 05/08, 5/21, & 5/22

**May - June
BUMC Worship Volunteers**

Date	Usher/Greeter	Fellowship	Communion
05/03/26	Gloria & Lynn	Yvonne & Gloria	x
05/10/26		Alma & Andrea	
05/17/26			x
05/24/26			x
05/31/26			x
06/07/26			
06/14/26			x
06/21/26		Alma & Andrea	x
06/28/26			x

* We have several dates to fill. If you are available, please call or email the office!
 **If you are unable to help on the date listed, please contact the office ASAP

**May - July
Diaper Depot & Food Pantry Volunteers**

05/02	Robert &	06/06	
05/09	Brenda & Mike Johnson	06/13	
05/16	Gloria & Teresa	06/20	Julie & Dianne
05/23		06/27	
05/30		07/04	

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

**Drakesville United
Methodist Church**

PO Box 114
210 N Madison Street
Drakesville, IA 52552

641-722-3210

Drakesvilleumc22@gmail.com

Worship
9:00 am

May

BUMC Website, DUMC, Holidays in United States							May 2025 (Central Time - Chicago)	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
26	27	28	29	30	1	2	8am - UWF Rummage Sale	8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - Diaper Depot 12pm - UWF Rummage Sale
3 9am - DUMC Worship 10:15am - Graduate Recognition 10:30am - BUMC Worship	4 7pm - Women's Bible Study	5 Cinco de Mayo	6 9am - UWF Meeting 12pm - UWF Rummage Sale 5pm - Community Meal	7 7am - UWF Rummage Sale - Half 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice 7pm - Praise Team Practice	8 Office Closed 7am - UWF Rummage Sale	9 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - Diaper Depot 9am - United Methodist Men in		
10 Mother's Day 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	11 7pm - Women's Bible Study	12	13 9am - United Women in Faith 6pm - Finance Committee	14 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice 7pm - Praise Team Practice	15	16 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - Diaper Depot		
17 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	18 7pm - Women's Bible Study	19 6pm - R&F End of Year Celebration	20 6:30pm - AD Board	21 Office Closed 9am - Caring Creations 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice 7pm - Praise Team Practice	22 Office Closed	23 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - Diaper Depot		
24 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	25 Memorial Day Office Closed 7pm - Women's Bible Study	26	27 6pm - One Board Meeting	28 6pm - AA Meeting 6pm - Choir Practice 7pm - Praise Team Practice	29 Jessica's Last Day	30 8am - Coffee with the Guys 9am - Diaper Depot		
31 9am - DUMC Worship 10:30am - BUMC Worship	1	2	3	4	5	6		

