

Algoma Boulevard UMC

A Reconciling Ministries Congregation of The United Methodist Church



Circuit Rider



abumc.org | November 2025



Photo by Cindy Overton ~ Skeleton Bridge School

Mission Statement

As the Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church family of faith, we will help people experience God through:

TRANSFORMATIONAL WORSHIP
INSPIRING MUSIC
PASSIONATE WITNESS.



LIFELONG LEARNING
LIFE-CHANGING SERVICE



From the Heart of Pastor Ellen



November 2025

*"I will sing of the Lord's steadfast love forever;
to all generations I will proclaim Your faithfulness with my mouth"*
~ Psalm 89.1 JPS TANAKH

Dear Beloved —

My heart is **overflowing with gratitude** for your prayers and care. You have been so gracious as I faced an unexpected surgery and recovery during our fall stewardship series. **Thank you!**

You are a congregation that **feeds people — body and soul**. Thank you, Lisa-Marie, for coordinating meals the first week following surgery. Thank you, Gail Sullivan, Valois Brothers, Barbv Ames, Vickie Savinski, and Sara Dobish, for delivering food on behalf of the congregation. *This is a ministry open to all*. If you or someone you know could benefit from meal delivery, please let the office know.

Thank you also for the cards filled with healing words and prayers. I have felt your love and care deeply — and I am so very grateful.

The Open Table

Well, well, well. You have gone above and beyond once again!

Last month, on **World Communion Sunday**, you were challenged to raise **\$1,250** for the Open Table Community Meal ministry. You **exceeded the challenge** and raised **over \$2,000** for this vital ministry!



Thank you for living generously.

All Saints Day

November 2, 2025

We will honor our Beloveds on this sacred day. There will be space in worship to light candles and name your loved ones — even if we didn't know about them ahead of time.

All of the Saints matter.

Love & Peace,
Pastor Ellen



Making an Impact

Transformative Ministries at Work

Deepening Our Connection with Read

Our church family has contributed in many ways to our friends next door at **Read Elementary School**. We have collected school supplies, snow pants and boots, snacks, and socks and we've provided a tasty lunch for the staff. These gifts have been essential to the well-being of the kids.

The most profound way that we can make an impact on the students though is through face-to-face interaction.

- ⇒ Our annual back-to-school party in the church yard shows our love through our smiles and gift of presence.
- ⇒ The Fun + One outreach provided a fun, stable, caring atmosphere in the church building on staff development days when kids didn't have school.

Many of the students in the school population have real struggles; an incarcerated parent, an absent parent, an unstable housing situation, emotional or learning challenges. ***We have the power to make a positive influence*** on these kids with our attention and kindness. One way is to become a mentor, **and it's much simpler than you may think.**

- ⇒ The staff identifies children who could use a positive influence in their lives and pairs them with mentors.
- ⇒ Mentors meet with their students once a week for 20 minutes, usually during their lunch period.
- ⇒ You may play a card game, color a picture, or read a book together. Or you can just sit and chat.

If there is a conflict with your schedule and you can't meet, you just notify the school. *Lisa-Marie has been a mentor for four years and would be happy to tell you more about her experience.* The school would like to have mentors begin in November. There are additional ways that you may help out at the school as well.

What's Up In Worship

November 2025

November is the final month of our Christian year. Not only are we preparing for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, as the body of Christ, we are preparing for the celebration of the creation of the Beloved Community Sunday. (Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday) Before we get to that, however, we have some additional celebrations.



All Saints Day is November 1, and we will celebrate on Sunday, **November 2** with the naming and candle lighting of the saints we have lost this past year and those that remain on our hearts.

A Story for Every Generation will be celebrated on **November 9**. Prepare to be amazed by our special worship guests—members of the **First LEGO League Challenge** that meet at ABUMC. These elementary students will give their presentation and share their work and we

will have the opportunity to ask questions that will help them prepare for their competition later this month.



FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League Challenge is an engaging, hands-on STEM program designed for students in grades 4-8. It helps young learners explore the excitement of science and technology while fostering self-confidence, critical thinking, and essential life and career skills. Through real-world engineering challenges, participants design and build LEGO robots to complete tasks on dynamic playing fields. This global robotics program inspires students to experiment, problem-solve, and develop coding and design skills, equipping them for future opportunities in STEM and beyond.

Pastor Ellen's message that day, "The Holy Quad" builds from Proverbs 18.15, "An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge," and John Wesley's teachings of the

Wesleyan Quadrilateral. The foundations of Wesleyan theology: Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience.



The Spring Chicken celebration will follow worship on November 9.



We close out The Changemakers series on **November 16**, when we celebrate our **Commitment and New Members** Sunday! You are asked to bring your 2026 commitment card to worship as we celebrate your gifts and the reception of new members.



November 23 concludes the Christian Year, but not the month.

We end the year with a celebration of our dream, *Becoming Beloved Community*.



We conclude the month and begin a new year on **November 30**, as we begin Advent with a new series:

What Do You Fear? Insisting On Hope This Advent



An Advent series that takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people!

CIRCUIT THANKSGIVING SERVICE
Sunday, November 23, 2025 at 4:30 pm
Wesley UMC
761 Florida Ave, Oshkosh

Spiritual Formation for All Ages

Resources for growing your faith

CROSSFIRE STUDENT MINISTRY—WEDNESDAYS AT 7 PM



Youth in junior high (7-8) and high school (9-12) are invited to join with Pastors Ellen and Ben (First UMC) on most Wednesday nights at 7 pm in room 212.

We gather to learn, love, be transformed and transforming as we study, play, and serve together. We continue to plan for the 2026 mission trip as we reimagine our space and engage with God's calling on our lives.



November's Theme: Gratitude

Reflecting God in our care of self, others, and creation

November Meeting Dates

11/5, 11/12, and 11/19 at 7 pm

NO MEETING on Thanksgiving Eve, 11/26

Let's grow our impact by bringing friends every week!

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER AT ABUMC?



Curious about what it means to be a United Methodist, a Wesleyan theologian, or a full-voting member of this community of faith? Would you like to deepen your discipleship journey and learn more about our shared calling?

Pastor Ellen has an opportunity for you! Using *BELONG*, a resource from the General Board of Discipleship, you are invited to a time of reflection and discernment as you consider your next step with ABUMC.

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 16 AT 10:00 A.M.

Connect with Pastor Ellen at any one of these times. Please RSVP:

- **Wednesday, November 5**, 4:30–6:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, November 9**, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, November 9**, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Or by appointment**

Call the office or send a text to **Pastor Ellen at 608-451-2000.**



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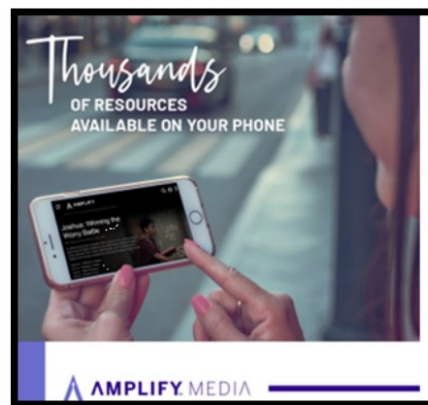
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Grow your faith anytime, anywhere — and invite a friend to join you!

United Women In Faith

We believe love in action can change the world



From the Desk of Sandy Butcher, President

Hello and greetings from the **United Women in Faith!**

Last month, when I shared about **United Women in Faith Sunday**, our unit was pleased to recognize **Travis Worth** for his leadership and service. The following Sunday, we recognized two people who are familiar to everyone!

Deb Nelson is the voice on the phone, the smiling face in the office, and the dedicated person behind the scenes. Thank you, Deb, for all you do for our church and our church family.

Steve Zehner has been overseeing the upkeep and maintenance of our building for a long time! Steve and the Trustees have been guiding the recent **Capital Campaign**, ensuring that one by one, each project on the list is completed with care. Thank you, Steve, for your time, dedication, and the countless ways you've supported Algoma Boulevard UMC.

Finally, **Nancy Levesque** was chosen to receive mission recognition for her work with the **Open Table meal program**. Nancy and her team have provided both food and friendship to so many who have come through our doors. It is inspiring to see the growth, witness the camaraderie, and recognize how God is working through this ministry. Thank you for nourishing both body and soul!

Travis, Deb, Steve, and Nancy each received a **Special Mission Recognition Pin**, and **\$40 was given in honor of each recipient** to the UWF's Special Mission Recognition Fund (one of the five avenues of giving).



District Celebration & Mission Connections

On **September 20**, members of our unit attended the **North East District Annual Day of Celebration** at Berlin UMC. It was a wonderful time to connect with our sisters from across the “new” North East District.

The **A.B.U.M.C. United Women in Faith** was recognized as:

- A **Five Star Unit** in giving
- **Reading Program Participants**
- A **Gold Level Mission Today Unit** in activities
- A **Local Mission Project Contributor** (collecting dignity or bedding kits)

We also heard from **Rev. Jay Cottrell-Duebner**, who serves as pastor of Gillett Tabor and Bonduel Zion United Methodist Churches. Born and raised on the Oneida Nation reservation, Rev. Jay first sensed God’s call at age 10. In addition to his ministry, he serves as a full-time medical office administrator and has led a local homeless shelter as board president.

For more information about Native American ministries in the UMC, visit **CONAM (Committee on Native American Ministries)** or explore the **Native American Comprehensive Plan**, which equips and supports United Methodist Native American ministries.

Later, we met **Jeanie Kirka Reimer**, “Mission Together” Partnership Coordinator for **Latvia and Lithuania** through the General Board of Global Ministries. Jeanie connects partners in the U.S. and abroad with Methodist ministries in Latvia and Lithuania, including the **Hope Center in Riga**, which provides vocational training, parenting and life skills education, and mental health support for young mothers. This vital work is part of our **National Mission Institutes**.

Next Gathering

The next **United Women in Faith meeting** will be held **Wednesday, November 19, at 1:00 p.m.** *All are welcome!*

We will explore the **Reading Program** and the **2026 new titles**.

The Reading Program helps women of faith:

- Lean into spiritual growth
- Strengthen leadership skills
- Equip for local and global mission
- Take faithful action for the common good
- Build community in meaningful ways

The books are current, relevant, and cover a wide variety of topics. Whether you read one or two titles or complete an entire plan, participation helps us grow — and **anyone, anywhere can join in!**



Connections Ministry

Building Beloved Community

Spring Chicken Event

We love our spring chickens! Those are our friends here at ABUMC who we've known for many years and who've had a tremendous impact on our beloved church community. And we're having a celebration to honor them on **Sunday, November 9th** right after worship. Delicious appetizers, treats, and beverages will be served. All are welcome! Come enjoy some great food and conversation and help us show the love to our spring chickens! (No Packers game to hurry home for that day).

**Celebrating Our
Spring Chickens
November 9**



Casserole Chaos Results



Our first Casserole Chaos event was a success! We delivered 25 baked dishes to the Day By Day Shelter on September 17th and the staff was thrilled! Thanks to all who contributed a meal during this fun outreach event. Now, we think 25 is a good number but we think we can do even better! So if you didn't throw a dish together this time we'll give you another chance. Keep your eyes and ears open for the next Casserole Chaos!





TAE & The Neighborly Duo

— ♥ ♥ —
Sunday, November 16
12:34pm

- Free food & free music
- Potluck at 11:30am
- Music starts at 12:34pm
- 3rd Sunday of every month

Algoma Boulevard UMC
1174 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI

SHARING AND CARING WITH OUR NEIGHBORS



The Open Table
Free Meal for All
2nd & 4th Monday
5-6pm

Algoma Boulevard
United Methodist Church
920-231-2800

THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY IS OPEN 24/7!

Living Generously

Transforming lives through giving

UMCOR IN ACTION

UMCOR has been the recipient of our monthly coins on many occasions, as well as the focus of one of the special United Methodist Sundays each year. UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief and their work is vital and crucial. They are on the frontlines when there are natural disasters and public health emergencies. They support and protect immigrant families and provide food to displaced people. They bring hope to women who are survivors of violence. And the list goes on.

In 2024 Global Ministries and UMCOR:

- Distributed \$37.6 million in humanitarian relief
- Implemented 187 emergency and solidarity grants
- Assisted survivors of 137 global humanitarian crises, including 42 extreme weather events; 32 floods; 3 earthquakes; 7 public health emergencies; and 25 migration events

100% of funds contributed to UMCOR go directly to the programs they are intended for. Administrative costs and operational costs are covered by other funds.



Haiti Alive ~ Attracted to Hope

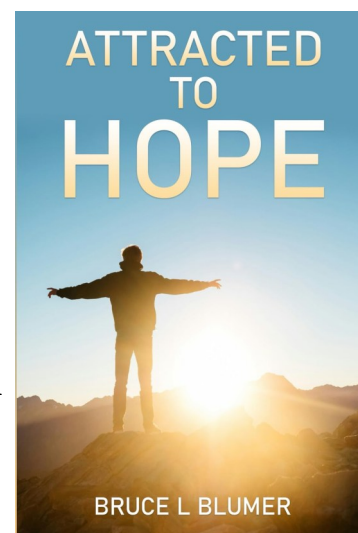
By Craig Blumer

Haiti Alive is a mission in Haiti that provides health care, education and housing to people on the Haitian island of Lagonav. My brother started this mission and recently wrote a book entitled, ***Attracted to Hope***. One of the ways that we can continue to support this impactful ministry is through the purchase of *Attracted to Hope*. **All the proceeds from this book go to the mission** and I am taking orders for the book.

About the book:

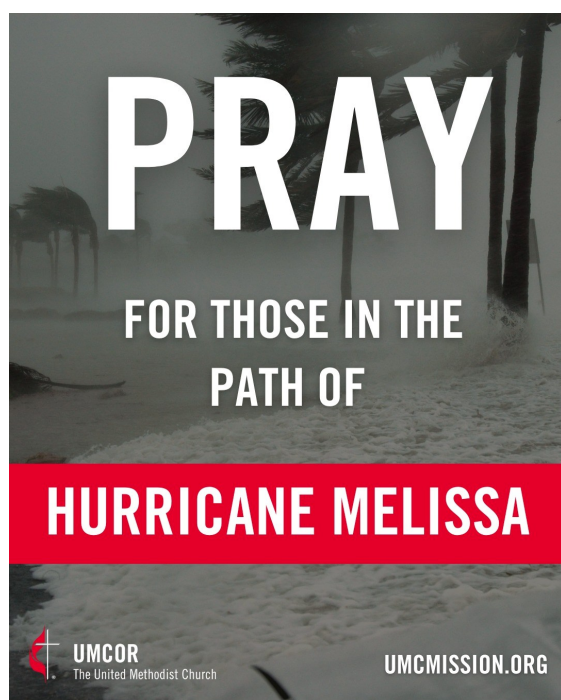
Hope is a word we use often, but it's far more than a simple wish or passing desire. True hope runs deeper—it's something we can cultivate, plan for, and actively pursue.

Through compelling stories, relatable examples, and insightful interviews, *Attracted to Hope* invites readers to explore hope from a variety of angles. From daily life to global cultures, from mental health and trauma to medical challenges, from the workplace to religion—and even in the face of death—this book reveals how hope shows up in the most unexpected places.



Thank you for supporting Haiti Alive through your generosity.

PRAYING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS



Living Generously

Transforming lives through giving

Monthly Loose Coin Offering for November

Tunnels to Towers Foundation



Since 9/11, the **Tunnel to Towers Foundation** has been helping America's heroes by:

- Providing **mortgage-free homes** to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children.
- Building **specially adapted smart homes** for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders.
- Working to **end veteran homelessness** across the United States.
- Ensuring that America will **Never Forget** September 11, 2001.

The mission of the **Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation** is to **honor the sacrifice** of FDNY firefighter Stephen Siller—and all those who laid down their lives to save others on September 11, 2001. The foundation continues to honor our military members and first responders who still make the supreme sacrifice of life and limb for our country.

On that tragic morning, **Stephen Siller** had just finished his shift and was on his way to play golf with his brothers when he heard on his scanner that a plane had struck the North Tower of the World Trade Center. He drove to the entrance of the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, but it had already been closed for security reasons. Determined to do his duty, Stephen strapped **60 pounds of gear** to his back and ran on foot through the tunnel to the Twin Towers—where he gave his life while saving others.

Stephen left behind a wife and five children. He had grown up in a family of **lay Franciscans**, inspired by the words of St. Francis of Assisi:

“While we have time, let us do good.”

Stephen's life and heroic death remind us to spend our time here on earth doing good.

This is his legacy.

During the month of **November**, our **offering coins will benefit the Tunnel to Towers Foundation.**



Thank you for living generously!



Special Sunday Offering:

United Methodist Student Sunday, November 30, 2025



United Methodist Student Sunday United Methodist Student Day is observed to emphasize the value of education. Contributions received through this special Sunday support scholarships for United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. This past year, **Kellyn Zehner and Hannah Dobish** have received UMC scholarships.

Contributions serve as a practical expression of support, providing both financial assistance and spiritual encouragement. Through scholarship funding, we demonstrate the church's commitment to developing principled leaders for a worldwide community. This investment fosters community transformation and empowers future leaders.

Thank you for living generously!



How To Give At ABUMC



We honor our baptismal and membership vows to God by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As contributors to a connectional system, our gifts have a global impact. Thank you for your generous support of the ministries at work in and through the people of ABUMC.

To Give In-Person: Envelopes are available at each worship experience, and you can designate how you would like your gift distributed. Cash and checks payable to ABUMC are accepted.

To Give Electronically:

Online at: <https://www.abumc.org/giving> Select “How to Give” and follow the online giving link.

Through your bank: Work with your online banking system to set up recurring or one-time payments through options like ZELLE or electronic funds transfer.

To Mail Gifts: Please make your check payable to ABUMC and send your gift to ABUMC, 1174 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh, WI 54901

For assistance with any of these options, please contact our staff at 920.231.2800. Thank you for living generously!



