



ALGOMA BLVD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mission Statement: *As the Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church family of faith, we will help people experience God through...transformational worship, lifelong learning, inspiring music, life changing service and passionate witness.*

April 2021



!!!BIG NEWS!!!

After prayer, research, consultation, and a lot of work...
We're starting to open the doors!

[Read about the many changes and safety precautions on the next page.](#)

Online Worship continues weekly at 10:00 a.m.

April 4th

- Outdoor Worship weekly at 9:00 a.m.
- Children's Sunday School weekly after Children's Time at the 9:00 service.

April 5th

- Church Office open M-Th 8:30-1:30
- Small Groups of 10 or less can meet as scheduled with the church office.

May 2nd

- Traditional Worship, weekly in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

If you are considered high risk, please continue to worship at home.

Details and Information **about Re-Opening**

Church office-open starting April 5th.

- Mondays-Thursdays 8:30-1:30.
- Masks required to enter the building.
- Hand sanitizer at main entrances.
- If you touch something, use bleach wipes to wipe it down
(*light switches, doors, bathrooms, etc*)

Small Groups

- 10 or fewer people can begin to meet in person
- Masked and distanced
- Reservations are required and can be made in the church office

Bathrooms

- All main floor bathrooms are open.
- After use, use bleach wipes on any surfaces you've touched.



Worship Information **Many changes and safety precautions are in place.**

Online Worship will continue Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

If you are high risk, please continue to worship from home.

Starting April 4th, worship weekly at 9:00 a.m. outdoors.

- Depending on weather - Drive-In Worship or Worship in the Lawn
- Lawn services will also be on 88.3 FM, so you can park on Algoma Blvd if you'd like to stay in your car to worship.

Starting April 4th, weekly Children's Sunday School with Lisa-Marie

after Children's Time at the 9:00 service (about 9:10) in the Harmony Room.

Starting May 2nd, weekly Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary at 10:30

In addition to 9:00 Outdoor Worship and 10:00 Online Worship, we'll have masked, distanced, as safe as possible worship with additional distanced seating in **Paine Hall**.

Worship in the Sanctuary will be significantly different...

For now, no singing by the congregation, no passing offering plates, no passing the peace, no verbally sharing prayer requests, no coffee hour.

Windows and doors will be open for airflow and fans will be running
(*you might want a jacket or a blanket*).

However, we will have singing by a performer, prayer request cards to share joys and concerns, collection baskets by the doors, prepackaged communion, and fellowship opportunities outside after the service.

If COVID numbers rise we may need to scale back and/or shut down the service in the sanctuary.

Our goal is to come together as soon as we can, but as safely as possible. As we move through the process of re-opening, we will continually adjust.

Pray with us through this exciting transition.



Dear Church Friends and Family,

Leadership and staff has been focused on doing the work of prayer, research, and planning as we work to re-open as safely as we can.

When my kids were at home and we were getting ready to go on vacation, jobs got divided up so that everyone helped. Someone had to water the plants, someone else cleaned out the litter box, garbage, laundry, and dishes... Each person had their own responsibilities so that we could get it done and be ready to go.

We see this in scripture as well. The disciples came from different backgrounds and each brought their own wisdom and expertise. The Apostle Paul wrote about the different gifts people have been given and how we can best use them to glorify God.

I've been reminded of this sort of teamwork as I look at the list of what needs to get done before we slowly re-open.

The list continues to grow, but here is a list of things currently needed...

- Ushers for outdoor worship
- Online Worship hosts
- Zoom Coffee Hour host
- Hymnals and Bibles back in pews
- Measured and labeled seating plan for sanctuary
- Paine Hall doors up and cleaned
- 5 Family seating tables set up in Paine
- Kitchen cleaned including vent fan
- Harmony room cleaned
- Paine Hall cleaned including blinds, window sills
- Sanctuary cleaned including dusting and window sills
- Main floor bathrooms deep cleaned
- Cobweb patrol on main floor
- Clock batteries replaced and times set on main floor

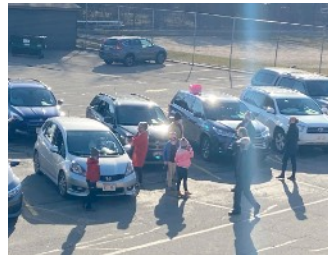
We also need your continued, faithful giving to help cover the costs of masks, hand sanitizer, bleach wipes, and tech/music equipment.

If there is a job you'd like to do, please contact the church office and sign up for a time to come in. If you need more information, email pastor@abumc.org

Let's work together and get ready for all that is to come.

With God's Joy and Love,

~Pastor Cathy



Drive-in Worship for April

Starting in April, drive-in worship will be held at 9 a.m. weekly on Sundays. Check abumc.org or the Facebook page for cancellations because of weather. Online worship will continue at 10 a.m. each week



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Give Blood, Give Life

A blood drive will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. April 12. Please wear a mask.



COVID-19 Memorial

Have you stopped by the church to add a ribbon to the COVID-19 memorial in our front yard? Our wish is that we fill the display to overflowing with colorful ribbons to honor all of the more than 6,000 lives lost in Wisconsin. You do not need to personally know someone who has passed. We want to pay respects to them all.

A string of lights stretches along the curved sidewalk in front of the cement bench on the corner of New York Avenue and Algoma Boulevard. We invite you to tie a ribbon or ribbons on the display and we ask that you spread the word to your family, neighbors and friends. A bin at the site contains ribbons as well as prayer slips.

Are you physically unable to come to the memorial but would still like to take part? Email Lisa-Marie at connections@abumc.org. Request that a ribbon be attached on your behalf.



Virtual Coffee Time Sunday Mornings

Join us online on Zoom for Sunday morning coffee hours. They will begin 10 minutes after online worship ends, at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Grab a snack and a drink and chat online with the church family. We'll start with a big group and then break up into small groups, come back together and then join a different small group. People can stay as long as they wish.

If you have questions about how to use Zoom, contact Katie@ admin@abumc.org during office hours, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

To get the link to join the group, email pastor Cathy at pastor@abumc.org



Keep in Contact!

Katie is in the office from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. She can be reached at 920-231-2800 or at admin@abumc.org.



New email addresses

There are two new email address to take note of:

- Lisa-Marie:
connections@abumc.org
- Chuck, our building manager:
building@abumc.org

Evan Numrich:



Helps People In Need Celebrate Their Lives

Evan Numrich, 13, is leading this month's drive to gather monetary donations and birthday celebration items for the annual Birthday Bags project.

He has grown up as a member of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church and is part of a very giving family — dad Herb, mom Jenny and older sisters Ashlynn, 22, and Meghan, 19.

As a student at Shattuck Middle School in Neenah, Evan most enjoys his math class. He also likes music and plays in a band. Pre-COVID, he participated in the musicals put on by the school.

His favorite memories from ABUMC involve learning Bible stories and connecting with them by doing related craft projects. He and his family also are involved in two big giving projects every year — Birthday Bags and Operation Christmas Child — that provide assistance for those in need.

These are done in collaboration with the Ridgeway 4-H Club near Neenah, where Jenny is organizational leader and Evan is treasurer. As a member of the 4-H Club, Evan helps restock shelves at a food pantry and shows exhibits at the Winnebago County Fair. He particularly likes creating objects out of Legos.

For the Birthday Bags project, assembly typically is shared between Sunday School kids at ABUMC and the club. However, the 4-H members will be assembling all Birthday Bags in June. However, the collection of birthday celebration items and monetary donations at ABUMC still is vital.

The projects are important, Evan says. "People can't always afford to get what they want. We can help those people who can't give their child a birthday party. It gives them a chance to celebrate their birthday, and it makes their day."



2021 Birthday Bags

Birthday Bags is a project to help families celebrate birthdays.

We package birthday bags with cake mix, frosting, candles, a card, paper plates and napkins. We package these bags for the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry for families to get a birthday cake for kids in need. We would like supplies for birthday bags to be donated by April 30. Ridgeway 4-H Club will be packaging them on June 8. For donations, we will take cash and these items: cake mixes, frosting, candles, paper plates and napkins. Also, it costs \$5 to sponsor one bag. We are in most need of cake mixes and frosting. Birthday bag items can be brought into drive-in worship services through April 30 or monetary donations can be mailed to Evan Numrich at 977 S. Prairie Creek Drive, Neenah, WI; or sent through church.



Written by Evan Numrich, seventh grader and treasurer of Ridgeway 4-H Club



The Fruit of Sharing the Blessings



It is with a joyful heart that we share that Stynho, one of the four students ABUMC sponsored through university in the Congo, is now a judge in the Congo System. Stynho was able to get his law degree because of the generous scholarship sponsored by ABUMC.

Stynho was from the small village of Kapanga and graduated from university in Lubumbashi. Please continue to keep Stynho and the other three young men that we sponsored in your prayers.



New Missions Nook

Soon we will all be able to be in community together again in our wonderful church building! Praise be! There have been a few exciting changes to welcome you back and we can't wait to share them with you. One is the new missions nook found in the main hallway across from the coat rack. All of our ongoing mission information and collections will be organized in this one area for a nice, visible, easy-to-use solution. There are cubbies where donations may be dropped off and a list of upcoming and ongoing activities that we're involved with. Birthday Bags, Angel Tree, UMW Health Kits, etcetera, will all be collected in this new location.



Literacy

Can you spare an hour a week? The Winnebago Area Literacy Council is always looking for individuals willing to be tutors for those in our community wanting to learn English or improve their reading, writing and communication skills. For some of you, tutoring may sound intimidating, but the WALC provides training, guidance and materials to assist tutors. I have been a tutor since 2012, with three different learners, and I have made three new friends! Every learner has different needs and each has different motivation levels. Some are super-motivated to learn and others may be unable to devote a lot of time to their studies, but all are appreciative of the assistance. In addition to one-on-one tutors, right now the WALC has an immediate need for virtual homework help drop-in tutors. This volunteer would have a set time, one hour a week (mid-afternoon or early evening), to be on ZOOM for ELL students attending FVTC English classes. The students could "drop in" as they need help with EL homework. Only English language learners, only English Language students working on English language homework.

Better English skills translates into healthier families and more productive citizens. Consider whether volunteering with the Literacy Council is something God is nudging you to try.



Strengthening Our Community



Spaghetti Dinner

Do you miss having the annual spaghetti dinner?? We do! Well, you're in luck! On Saturday, April 17, we will be serving a delicious spaghetti dinner with a twist. The meal will be prepared in the church kitchen by our amazing meal team and delivered to your vehicle via our drive-through pickup to be enjoyed at home. This venture is important because we are starting an exciting new outreach at ABUMC and the proceeds from this spaghetti dinner will provide the seed money. We will be preparing a meal for the public, once a month, free of charge. What a wonderful way to serve our community and breathe life back into our church building! AND, we'll be using environmentally friendly containers!

Tickets for the spaghetti dinner will be \$10 for adults, \$5 for children 10 and younger, and they **must be purchased by April 12** (*the earlier, the better for us!*). Invite your friends and family! To purchase tickets, contact Lisa-Marie at 920-312-1751. Payment may be made by check to ABUMC (*memo line: SPAGHETTI DINNER*) or via Venmo to Lisa-Marie.

Please join us!!!



DRIVE-THRU
Spaghetti Dinner

April 17th Fundraiser
Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church
1174 Algoma Boulevard

We know you all miss the annual dinner!
We are selling tickets:

\$10 EACH/ \$5 KIDS 10 & UNDER
for a delicious meal complete with:
salad,
breadsticks &
dessert.

Delivered right to your vehicle!

CALL LISA-MARIE AT 920-312-1751
TO PLACE ORDER &
CHOOSE YOUR PICK-UP TIME SLOT
MUST BE PURCHASED BY APRIL 12TH

Time slots available for pick-up:

- 5:00
- 5:15
- 5:30
- 5:45
- 6:00

Proceeds will provide seed money for an exciting new outreach serving a free community meal each month.
Matching grant for gifts above the ticket price!!

Souper Bowl Update

Even with a weather delay and being unable to take our collection in the sanctuary as we've done every year, we had a tremendously successful Souper Bowl of Caring event Feb. 21. Bryn Millette, Alex Dobish, Kellyn Zehner and Hannah Dobish helped collect the **191** non-perishable food items and hygiene products that folks brought to the drive-in worship service. Additionally, **\$365** in monetary donations also were received! The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is extremely grateful for everyone's generosity.



Inside the Open Door

We are hoping that soon we can actually enter the church and can take advantage of the materials in the Open Door Library. Don't hesitate to call Jan (479-6016) or Rachel (231-7724) for help in getting any books.

Children:

The Children's Easter collection is on display so if there is a story of Easter you would like to share with family, please call Rachel or Jan so we can get it to you before Easter.

- *One Morning in Joseph's Garden*, by Barbara Younger and Lisa Flinn, is not the usual story about Easter. The authors had read the biblical story that told how Mary had been the first to discover that Jesus was not in the tomb. They read about gardens that existed when Jesus was here on earth. This story imagines who the other visitors were in the garden that first Easter. Enjoy it with children. Please see the back page which was written for adults. (J263.93 You)
- Sonia Sotomayor, a Supreme Court justice of the United States, and her young friends are planting a garden. Just like the plants that will be growing in their garden, each person is different. Maybe some can't hear very well, or see, or need a wheelchair?

They are probably like some of the children like you or others in your class at school or in your neighborhood. The book is called *Ask Me!* If you are wondering why someone is doing something in an unusual way, Judge Sonia says to ask that person — unless you feel they are too shy to answer. (JFic Sot)

- Are you glad to be back in school with your friends? Two children are glad to see each other. They need to decide which activities they will do. *The Blue Ribbon Day* is by Katie Couric, a TV news reporter. The story tells about the friends' participation in tryout games. Do you think they will be teammates? Are you on the same team as your closest friend? (J Fic Cou)
- Do you remember taking a trip or being invited to an overnight at a friend's or grandparents' home? Did you pack a suitcase? Did you put a surprise in it? The story, *The Suitcase*, is about a very tired strange animal who arrives at a town lugging a BIG suitcase. Some other animals in the town wonder what is in that suitcase. So they ask. You'll be surprised how they found out what was inside. The author is Chris Naylor Ballesteros. The book will be on the library table or call Jan (920-479-6016) or Rachel (920-231-7724) or Katie at the church (920-231-2800) We'll get it for you. Enjoy!

Adults:

- Easter is almost here and this next book should have been mentioned in March! *Easter Stories: Classic Tales for the Holy Season*, compiled by Mirian LeBlanc (08 Leb) is shelved on the SG (Spiritual Growth) shelf in the UMW section. Every season is holy so you can read it anytime! It contains 27 short stories and some poetry chosen "for their spiritual value and literary integrity." They are beautiful stories for both adults and children. Authors include C.S. Lewis, Leo Tolstoy, Oscar Wilde, Elizabeth Goudge, Selma Lagerlof, Anton Chekhov and others. Perfect for family read-aloud.
- Another timely title is *What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty*, by Bill Ehlig and Ruby K. Payne (362.5 Ehl). The country and the whole world is dealing with poverty and other social problems related to it. Do we treat people differently who look poor? Visitors usually mention that ABUMC is so friendly and welcoming. But do we know what poverty does to humans? Do they misinterpret our behavior and speech? Are we reaching all the people who may yearn for more connection? This book can teach us about communication and different mindsets. It can be read on its own or as a study book.

— **Rachel Benton and Jan Nash**



COVID Vaccine information for Winnebago County.

If you can register online, click the link. <https://www.wcvaccine.org/>

If you need to call for an appointment or need help getting there, see below.

For assistance in getting an appointment through Winnebago County Health Department call: (920) 232-3026

For free transportation to and from a vaccination appointment call: Make the Ride Happen at (920) 225-1719, Monday - Friday from 8:30 to 4:30

RTFV Team

Rebuilding Together Fox Valley is a nonprofit organization that provides home repairs and updates to low-income, senior, disabled and veteran homeowners at no cost to them. They partner with businesses, volunteer groups and individual volunteers to make homes safe and healthy. From the RTFV website:

At Rebuilding Together Fox Valley, our volunteers are the backbone of our organization. Together, we accomplish more than home repairs; we preserve affordable homeownership, reduce substandard housing in the community, and improve not just the homes themselves, but the families and surrounding neighborhood as well. When you volunteer, you make a lasting impression on both the people you serve and the people you serve with.

Depending on your interest and skill level, we will place you in a position where you can be most effective.

We are excited to have assembled a fantastic ABUMC team to be a part of this necessary ministry in our community and hope to regularly engage in projects that will enhance the lives of our neighbors and allow them to live more safely and securely.

[We are always looking for additional volunteers](#)

If you would like to join our team, contact Lisa-Marie. No specific skills are necessary, just a willingness to put in some time and a bit of elbow grease.





"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

- Mark 12:30-31 -

CIRCUIT RIDER

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church
1174 Algoma Boulevard
Oshkosh, WI 54901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Circuit Rider is published monthly for the members and constituents of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh, WI 54901-3596. Your contributions (due by the 15th of the month), comments and suggestions are welcome and appreciated.

Editors: Jaye Alderson, jayema@execpc.com, Cindy Overton, ceokini@gmail.com.

Pastor Cathy Weigand

Office telephone: 920-231-2800

Website: <http://abumc.org>

Office e-mail address: admin@abumc.org