

Algoma Boulevard UMC

A Reconciling Ministries Congregation of The United Methodist Church



Circuit Rider



abumc.org | October 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

October 2025

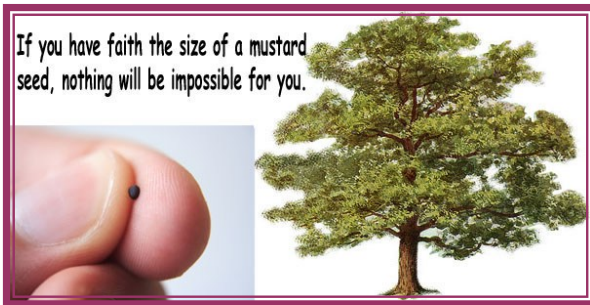
“Increase our faith!” ~ Luke 15.7 CEB



Dear Beloved ~

Have you ever wondered what it means to “increase our faith”? How much is enough? Who decides when we have the faith we need for the challenges we face?

In the Wesleyan tradition, we believe faith is a journey shaped by God’s grace—prevenient, justifying, sanctifying—and our response to God’s unmerited love, forgiveness, and invitation. God has the power to transform us at every moment, even to our last breath.



The Open Table

Four years ago, in the midst of a global pandemic, this congregation stepped out in faith to reimagine a community meal. You began by handing food through car windows; today we gather around tables where bodies and souls are nourished.

Since 2021, The Open Table has been blessed by faithful servants and generous support—thank you! This ministry is a visible witness of God’s love, feeding neighbors physically and spiritually.



If you’d like to join the team—preparing food, baking desserts, serving guests—please contact Lisa-Marie or Nancy Levesque. Whether once in a while or regularly, you are welcome.

On **World Communion Sunday, October 5**, we will receive a special offering to fund this ministry for another year. Our goal is \$1,250—but with food insecurity growing in Winnebago County, let’s stretch to \$2,000. We are generous people, and we can do this!

Thank you for living generously.



All Saints Day November 2, 2025

On All Saints Sunday, we will remember the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us in faith. Together, we will give thanks for their lives and the ways they continue to shape and inspire us. If you would like a loved one remembered in worship, please submit the following to the church office **by October 20:**

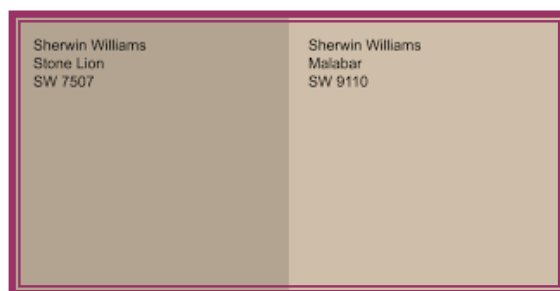
- Their **full name**
- Your **relationship** to them
- **Dates of birth and death**
- A **picture** (if available)

Names will be read and displayed in order of date of death since last All Saints Day, followed by any other beloveds you would like to honor. We will honor all who are on our hearts; however, picture sharing will be limited to those who have died since last All Saints Day.

*Thank you for helping us prepare for
this day of remembrance.*

UR Ministries

Our youth and young adult ministries are underway, and I am grateful for all who are investing their time and energy. UR (Upper Rooms) has become the umbrella for our outreach: **UR Great, UR Here, UR Beloved.** Please continue to pray for this ministry and for those we seek to connect with. Our goals are simple yet profound: to create a safe space where people can be just as they are and to build healthy, life-giving relationships with one another.



Fresh paint colors have been selected for rooms 212 and 213 (Stone Lion) and for the hallway (Malabar), and Crossfire Youth Ministry is planning the work.

Extra hands are always welcome!

Special thanks to **Sherwin-Williams at 130 North Koeller Street**—their staff provided outstanding support, helped us create a plan, and offered us everything we needed at a sale price. Please stop by if you're in the neighborhood and say **THANK YOU!**

Love & Peace, Pastor Ellen

What's Up In Worship

October 2025

World Communion Sunday

October 5, 2025 | Psalm 137 & Luke 17.5-10

The Table of Belonging

Rev. Ellen Rasmussen

October is one of my favorite months for worship planning and designing experiences that remind us of the larger body of Christ—the global body of Christ. We begin and end with an ecumenical focus. World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. We conclude the month honoring the Protestant Reformation (Martin Luther posting the 95 Theses.)

World Communion Sunday is one of

the Six Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church and embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for under-represented students. (*See inside the back cover for more information.*)

This is also the Sunday that we have chosen locally to celebrate, affirm, and support the **Open Table community meal program**. We will collect a special offering for this ministry. Will you help us reach our goal of **\$1,250** for 2025-26?



THE CHANGEMAKERS

Risking Something Big for Something Good

October 2025

@ABUMC

THE CHANGEMAKERS: RISKING SOMETHING BIG FOR SOMETHING GOOD

This October we begin a new worship series, *The Changemakers*. A changemaker is a risk-taker—someone who puts faith into action to make a positive difference in the world. Jesus was a changemaker. And the good news is... so are we!

Made in God's image, sharing the purposes of Jesus, and empowered by the Spirit, we are already equipped with the wealth of gifts we need: compassion, collaboration, and creativity. These gifts sustain us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world.

This series is also part of our annual stewardship season at ABUMC. Together, we'll reflect on how God calls us not only to give, but to risk something big for something good — trusting that our shared generosity will create ripples of change, here in Oshkosh and far beyond.

THE CHANGEMAKERS JOURNEY— OCTOBER SUNDAYS

- **October 12 – Compassion:** Walking the road of life with others, fueled by God's love.
Luke 10.25-37
- **October 19 – Collaboration:** Discovering that we never walk alone in Christ's community.
Luke 10.1-11
- **October 26 – Creativity:** Imagining and living into God's possibilities with boldness and joy. *Luke 7.36-50*

Spiritual Formation for All Ages

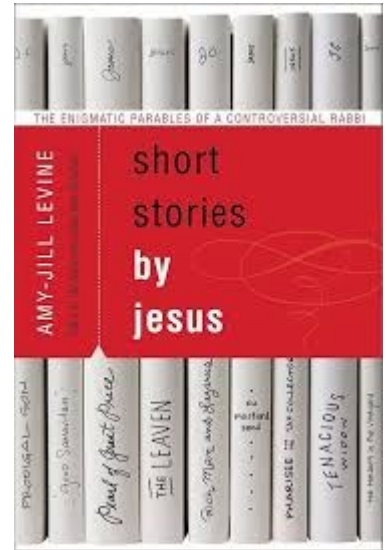
Resources for growing your faith.

SUNDAY'S AT 9 AM WITH DON NELSON

You are invited to join with our scholar in residence, Don Nelson, as he shares his passion for faith development by facilitating ***Short Stories by Jesus***, an Amy-Jill Levine study.

Jesus knew how to tell a story. He knew that in order to get his message across he needed to relate to the people who gathered to listen—first century Jews—who lived in a very different world than the one in which we live today. In *Short Stories by Jesus*, author Amy-Jill Levine takes you back in time and explains how original audiences understood Jesus' parables. You'll learn how new interpretations of the parables continue to challenge and provoke contemporary readers two thousand years later.

A participant's guide and the book are available in the office for \$20.



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 are working on two projects: planning the 2026 mission trip (**COME!**) and reimagining new space for youth and young adults in the Upper Rooms UR Ministries—rooms 212, 213, and the theatre and art rooms] (**SERVE!**).

October Meeting Dates

10/8, 10/15, 10/22, and 10/29 at 7 pm

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

Amplify Media

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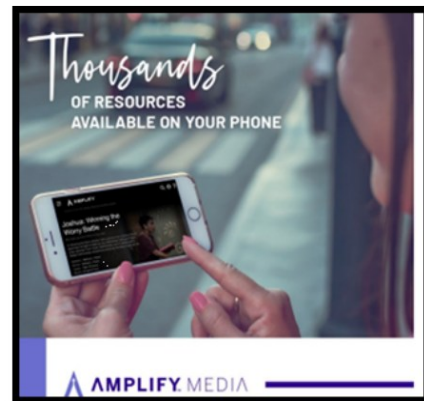
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**Scan to start
watching today!**

👉 *Try it this week:
Watch the preview video of
Don Nelson's class,
Short Stories by Jesus by a
Jewish professor,
Amy-Jill Levine.*



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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

United Women in Faith Sunday 2025 is “in the books.”

A huge thank you to the Rev. Dr. Heather Brewer for her leadership on Sunday, September 21. From the Children’s Chat through the scripture lesson (Numbers 27.1-11) and the Rev. Brewer’s message on the daughters of Zelophehad, son of Hephher, it was a wonderful service for all ages! If you weren’t able to attend, please make sure to check out the replay. All the way to the end!



During the service, United Women in Faith recognized a faithful worker in mission. A gift of a Special Mission Recognition pin was presented to Travis Worth. Travis has been a valued staff member of ABUMC and his gift of music, leadership with the praise band, working with the choir, and showcasing area musicians is such a blessing. In honor of his music ministry, a \$40 donation was made to our national office. Thanks again, Rev. Dr. Heather Brewer. Thank you,

Travis. Thanks to all the musicians and support staff. Thanks to the Ames for cooking and preparing the potluck. It was a great Sunday with church family and church neighbors.

The UWF National support includes:

Office of Deaconess & Home Missioners

We support a global network of laypersons who have chosen a full-time vocation in ministries of love, justice and service. In partnership with the church, they work to:

- ◇ alleviate suffering
- ◇ eradicate causes of injustice and all that robs life of dignity and worth
- ◇ facilitate the development of full human potential
- ◇ share in the building global community through the church universal

National Mission Institutions (NMIs)

We support nearly 90 NMIs across the United States serving the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities with the goal to:

- ◇ care for children
- ◇ educate and develop youths
- ◇ create economic opportunities
- ◇ transform neighborhoods
- ◇ provide housing

Regional Missionaries

Focusing on issues of health, gender equality, and elimination of violence among women, and support for the uprooted and marginalized, including:

- ◇ training programs and workshops
- ◇ strategic planning and networking

Grants and Scholarships

In 2021, we awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$4,084,488! They include:

- ◇ international and national mission grants
- ◇ cultivation grants for missionary conferences
- ◇ social justice issue grants
- ◇ Theressa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizenship Award
- ◇ international and national scholarships

Service & Advocacy

Our commitment to make the world a better place through action includes support of vital work on:

- ◇ peace and justice
- ◇ education
- ◇ the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights
- ◇ justice issues in partnership with coalitions to help extend their reach
- ◇ leadership training on our social justice priorities

The programs that we support, benefit women, children, and youth; comply with the Social Principles of the UMC, and are administered by organizations that stress inclusion and not discrimination.



Connections Ministry

Building Beloved Community

Highway Clean-Up

ABUMC is the proud adoptive parent of a stretch of Hwy 76 by the fairgrounds and we need to get out there and pick up some litter! Won't you join us? We always have fun, chatting along the way, and scratching our heads at some of the things we find.

If you can walk 1.5 miles and can bend to pick stuff up then we want you! Bring a grabber tool if you want to make it even easier!

The date is October 1. We'll meet at church at 9 a.m. and carpool to the site, returning at about 11 a.m.

We'll provide the trash bags and safety vests. You should wear long pants, gloves, and sturdy shoes that can get dirty.

Help us keep Oshkosh perty!



Sunday, October 19, 2025

11:30 am potluck

12:34 artist showcase (concert)



Clothing Drive

During the month of October, we will be collecting new or like-new clothing, towels, sheets, and footwear for the Community Clothes Closet. Please consider taking an inventory of your closets and see if you have some nice items you can part with. Everything should be laundered. Items should be placed in the mission bins in the church hallway. Following are their **most critical needs**, but other items are gratefully accepted:

- Men's pants and shirts – small and medium
- Children's clothing – 2T and larger
- Athletic shoes – all sizes
- New bras and underwear
- King and queen size sheets and comforters
- Towels



Please, no stained or worn-out clothing

*Lighten your load —
donate to the Clothing Drive*



ABUMC Choir, Directed by Todd Kaphaem

Love to sing? Enjoy hanging out and having fun with others? Like to make a joyful noise? Then **COME!** The choir rehearses on Wednesday nights from 7—8:30 pm in the Harmony Room. Contact Todd for more information.



Living Generously

Transforming lives through giving

Back 2 School Fair

By Deb Madel

The Oshkosh Back 2 School Fair held in August was a great success! This event is a passion of mine because every child deserves an equal opportunity to start the school year with confidence and enthusiasm. We provide families that do not have the financial means a venue to get a backpack, school supplies, clothing, shoes, hygiene items, haircuts and connections to community supports. So....**A BIG thank you** to all of you who participated with a donation of children's clothing!

Pastor Ellen has been reminding us that each of us is capable of making a difference and that when we make connections and work cooperatively, we are able to multiply what we can do. This event is a perfect example of that.

One of you donated an outfit. Then another one, and another until we collected a shopping cart full of clothing. That cart was added to collections of clothing from 22 other churches and soon we had enough clothing to fill a room and provide an outfit for each of our students.

Add to this the work of over 20 committee members, 17 community organizations, 12 major funders/donors and over 50 volunteers, and the fair was able to provide for **1200 kids** during the two-day event and **300** more on the waiting list in the following weeks.

The BTSF truly demonstrates the impact of collaboration and the value of united efforts to shape educational outcomes and positively influence students' success and overall well-being. And personally, for me, ...seeing and "high fiving" the kids as they strut out, proudly sporting a full backpack and a huge smile is everything.

Thank you for the difference YOU make.



Haiti Alive ~ Attracted to Hope

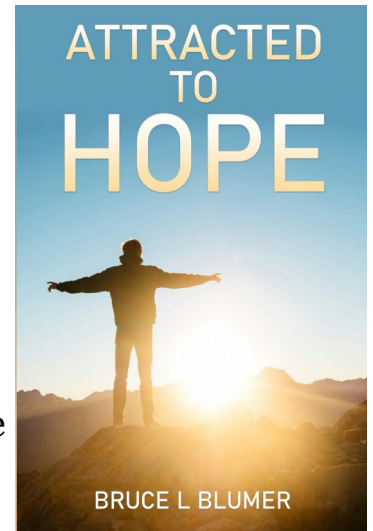
By Craig Blumer

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.

Pictures from the Back to School Event in August



Living Generously

Transforming lives through giving

Monthly Loose Coin Offering for October Community Clothes Closet of Menasha

The Community Clothes Closet of Menasha believes clothing can open the door to a better future. Through generous donations, they provide clothing, outerwear, footwear, accessories, towels and bedding to empower friends, neighbors and colleagues in Northeastern Wisconsin and beyond. They partner with other social service agencies who vet and refer clients who then can shop at Community Clothes Closet – always 100% free of charge.



Community Clothes Closet started in 1980 when a small church group provided a single pair of shoes to a homeless man in need. Through these humble beginnings, **they've grown to serve more than 10,000 people annually** including the working poor, students, returning veterans, those who are homeless, older adults, and those who have emergency clothing needs because of a fire or flood. During the month of October, the coins collected during the offering will benefit CCC.

Thank you for living generously!

COMMUNITY
CLOTHESCLOSET



Special Offering:

**Open
Hearts.**

**Open
Minds,
Open
Doors**

World
Communion
Sunday with its
UMC Special
Sunday offering
is **October 5.**

**We are also
asking you to
consider
making a
special gift to
support the
Open Table
Ministry at
ABUMC.**

*Thank you
for
living
generously!*

Special Sunday Offering:

World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2025

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for under-represented students. Contributions fund scholarships for U.S. and international students, as well as grants for global inclusion, diversity, equity, and access training.

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!

