



Abumc.com

July 2025



***July ~ August
Worship Series***

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.

WORDS FROM LEADERSHIP



Annual Conference 2025 as experienced by Anne Fields

This marked my eighth Annual Conference with ABUMC, yet it was uniquely filled with many significant firsts.

This annual conference felt remarkably different; for the first time, the pervasive heaviness of debates over LGBTQIA+ inclusivity and the Book of Discipline's exclusionary language was absent. It truly felt like a step onward to healing.

The first annual conference where I voted on a General Conference ruling.

Our young adult, Kellyn Zehner, attended her first annual conference, where she personally experienced the significant impact her voice can have on the Wisconsin UMC camps and the church as a whole.

I was fortunate to witness Kellyn cast her first vote of UMC “business.”

The first annual conference for our reassigned Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Episcopal district.

The first annual conference with our newly assigned Bishop Dan Schwerin.

I spoke at a microphone at Annual Conference for the first time, not because I had some profound notion to share but because my voting mechanism wasn't working and I needed support before we voted!

For the reasons above, this was a refreshing and productive conference for me.

The theme **A Year of Grace 2025** was woven throughout the weekend, beginning with the opening remarks from Bishop Schwerin, “Grace and appreciation are sisters. I invite us to conference with each other with appreciation, for each other, for the vision which has seized our lives, and for the calling from our baptism.”

Personally, I'm a fan of Don Cramer and his **statistical reporting** for the conference. His delivery is casual and easy to understand. It is a fabulous highlight on our district churches, membership, church size, clergy compensation, how churches spend money, membership trends, other noteworthy statistics. I encourage you to review his report here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQAGLzDGIOs>

Bible Study was led by Dr. Ahyun Lee, titled Grace is Sufficient. She got my attention right away with a simple slide “ARE WE ENOUGH?” and then dove into defining religious trauma. In this moment, I was so proud that we (“the church”) was talking about the physical, mental, social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Here are some snippets:

Everyday Church Disputes	Traumatic Church Conflicts
Temporary frustrations	Long-lasting emotional pain
Differences over worship style, song choices, or renovations	Severe breaches of trust
Solved by honest dialogue and mutual compromise	Prolonged hostility and division
Common disagreements; part of community life	Threats to community safety and wellbeing
Example: Choosing hymns or deciding paint colors	Examples: Trusted leaders abruptly leaving, abusive leadership, heated theological arguments becoming personal attacks



Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church
Invitation to Reflect

When has church felt like a place of hurt rather than healing for you or for someone you care about?

- Clarifying misconceptions about suffering
- Misuse of scripture historically and today
- Paul's intent: vulnerability as a source of divine connection

Nearly one-third of U.S. adults experience religious trauma

Diane Walsh and Gillian Koch, "Helping Clients Navigate Religious Trauma," Counseling Today, November 2023. <https://www.counseling.org/publications/counseling-today-magazine/article-archive/article/legacy/helping-clients-navigate-religious-trauma>

- Tip-1: Your story is yours**
- Tip-2: You don't have to be strong alone**
- Tip-3: You live within God's grace**
- Tip-4: Your Weakness Is Your Witness**

We were invited to openly discuss at our tables and that we did.

Please explore more on your own:

<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/conference-materials>

I'm happy to answer questions or dive deeper in conversation with you.

Grace and peace, Anne



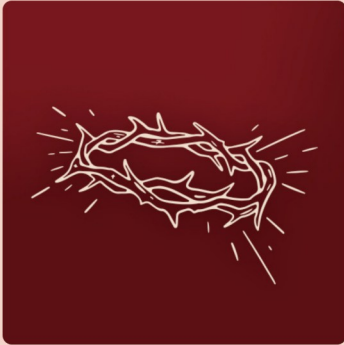
Transformed by the Holy Spirit July - August 2025

Throughout our worldwide connection, there are vibrant congregations; the good news is being preached; the hungry are being fed; prisoners are being visited; the sick are being cared for; the marginalized are finding a home; migrants and refugees are being welcomed; people are coming to faith; UMCOR and other agencies have been engaged in disaster relief; churches are being planted; justice is being pursued; evil, injustice, and oppression are being resisted; and communities are being transformed.

John Wesley strongly argued that waiting for grace, the active presence of the Spirit, is an active waiting. We do not sit around doing nothing. We engage ourselves in preparing for the coming of God's grace. More than that, this preparing for the coming of God's grace is, in fact, the consequence of God's grace already present and active within us. Active waiting is a preparing of the way, inspired and empowered by God, for the Spirit to do something surprisingly new.

The Council of Bishops of the UMC have provided this resource, *Pentecost People: Transformed by the Holy Spirit* for use by local congregations to rediscover what it means to be Pentecost People – people healed and transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit, sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ, living in dynamic, welcoming communities, empowered to bear witness in example, deeds, and word to God's reign of love in the world. Worship + study = Transformation

WORSHIP JULY 2025



July 6, 2025, 10 am
Justice, Love,
Liberation & The Cross
Luke 24.36-49

*The Resurrection
of the Crucified (Faith)*

We begin our new series together with a special communion service featuring liturgy from the Immigration Justice Summit that Pastor Ellen attended in April.

We also introduce the new series, "Pentecost People."

We are invited to reflect upon the gift of the resurrection in the Pentecost season. Resurrection is unpredictable, unexpected, and disturbing, to be Pentecost People is to be aware that God uses the "un's" to embody the reign of divine love.



July 13, 2025, 10 am
Transformation, Renewal,
and Empowerment
Matthew 28.1-10

*The Resurrection
and Inbreaking
New Creation (Hope)*



July 20, 2025, 10 am
Emissaries of
Radical Love
John 10.19-23

*Called to Bear Witness
(Love)*

WIAC Report Sunday

How does this Spirit-Filled Life really work? What do we bear witness to? One of the ways that we bear witness to the church in the world is to listen to Anne Fields share from the 2025 Wisconsin Annual Conference.

What does radical hospitality look like? Feel like? Bear witness to? We claim open hearts, open minds, open doors and that all are welcome to the communion table and that is true! But, are we welcoming everyone to the potluck tables in the same manner?



July 27, 2025, 10 am
Potluck Perspectives
Acts 2.41-47

*Embodying the
Love of God -
A Table Open to All*

Resources for Growing Disciples

Amplify Media ~

A **FREE to user** online digital library for individuals, small groups, and families!

Amplify Media is a wonderful tool for discipleship growth at ABUMC! Amplify Media is a multi-media platform that delivers high quality, searchable content with an emphasis on Wesleyan perspectives for church-wide, group, or individual use on any device at any time.

We pay a small monthly fee that gives us access to an amazing online library from the United Methodist Publishing House. It is **FREE** for individuals, families, and small groups to use.

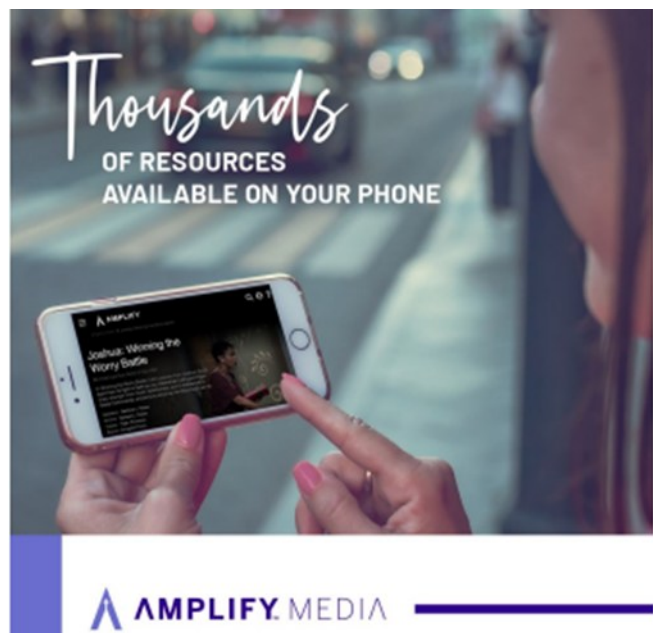
In order to take advantage of this amazing resource, users need to create an account. And it is as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to my.amplifymedia.com
2. Find the person icon in the upper righthand corner and enter this access code: VLMNWI
3. Create your account and explore the site! There's something for everyone. Once your account is created, you can Browse by topics, speakers, or writers.

You can use the Discover tab and explore Recently Added, Most Watched, Featured Studies, and Studies & More. Both of these tabs are located in the upper right corner of the screen. On the upper left corner of the screen, you can explore what's available in the Channels—just use the drop down menu and select from Amplify Media, Cokesbury Kids, Fresh Expressions, or Everyday Faith.

Got Questions—Talk with Pastor Ellen

**SIGN UP FOR YOUR
FREE ACCOUNT TODAY**



CONNECTIONS MINISTRY

Back-to-School Fair

Once again, ABUMC will join other faith organizations and businesses to provide school clothes, shoes, and supplies for the over 1,200 students in need in the Oshkosh Area School District. We have been asked to supply clothing. There will be tags hanging in the church missions area for you to choose from. The tags will indicate whether the gift is for a boy or a girl, as well as the size needed. You may choose to purchase pants and/or a shirt.



Return the gift unwrapped by July 13th, along with the tag.

If you are unable to shop but would like to contribute, please speak with Lisa-Marie.

Volunteer Opportunity Spotlight



Moments Hospice is looking for people who want to make a difference in people's lives during times of need. They provide care to patients and their families in their own homes or senior living communities.

Patient visitors provide companionship, sitting quietly reading, listening to, or playing games with patients. They may help with light household chores or caregiver relief.

Administrative volunteers organize supplies and documents, recruit volunteers, or write letters to patients.

Vigil volunteers offer companionship, comfort and presence to patients during the time immediately prior to their death. They provide support to the caregivers and loved ones during the end-of-life process.

Learn more at momentshospice.com/volunteer.



Become a God's Gardener and help maintain our beautiful space. Sign up for a specific area to take care of now thru snowfall, weeding, dead heading, pruning, cleaning, and watering. Sign up in Paine Hall. Questions, please contact Deb Madel. If you need her contact information, please contact the office. Thank you.

If you're interested but would like a partner to work with, please share that information with Deb. Together, many hands make light work. This is a wonderful opportunity for intergenerational ministry as well.

Thank you for your service!



Sunday, July 20

12:34 Concert &

Potluck

10 am worship

11:30 potluck

12:34 concert

All

Are

Welcome!



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith would like to thank everyone who participated in the collection of dignity and bedding kits that Pastor Ellen delivered to the Ingathering during Annual Conference. In addition to the kits, \$175.00 was collected from unit members. The May coin offering provided another \$213.00.

Whatever is collected will go the Midwest Mission. Their mission is “Bringing the hearts and hands of God’s people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief”. Thank you for your support with this important project.

In July, we continue the UWF Wisconsin Conference leading Mission U. The 2025 theme is “Practicing Hope Together” and will explore the hope that emerged within a small community of followers after the resurrection of Jesus. We will participate an in-person overview on July 12th, at Wesley UMC at Wausau.

We are hosting a gathering for all women in the church! Please come and enjoy a mid-summer gathering on **Tuesday, July 8th, 2025, at 11:30 a.m.** in Paine Hall. **Kathy Propp** is our featured speaker. Please plan to attend

for some food, fellowship and fun!

Bring a potluck dish to share.

Wear something floral!

In August, the Executive Board will be meeting on the 6th, and the 13th, to plan activities for 2026, it will be here before we know it!

Sandy Butcher



Turned in all of the supplies at the Midwest Mission Distribution truck.



DEEPENING OUR UNDERSTANDING

A Pentecost Prayer and Urgent Invitation from Bishop Julius C. Trimble, General Secretary of the Board of Church and Society ~ June 5, 2025—Justice Takes Courage—Edition #8

The promise of the Holy Spirit comes from Jesus with the gathering of “devout Jews of every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem.” The bible records in the book of Acts 2:1 they had come together in one place.

Prayer to Stop the Attacks and Assaults on Jewish People

My prayer this Pentecost Sunday and season is that people of faith come together in one place of sacred solidarity and declare that hatred and violence, as was recently demonstrated with the killing of two Jewish American persons in Washington D.C., as well as the Boulder, Colorado assault against persons in a peaceful march to raise awareness for hostages held in Gaza, is an affront to all we believe and must be denounced.

The book of Proverbs (NIV) 6:16-17 says “There are six things that the Lord hates... haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood. The next verse lists a “heart that devises wicked plans.”

As Christians, we stand against all bigotry and hatred, including the rise of antisemitism. It’s important for Christians to advocate for the safety of Jewish people with an understanding of their history, as well as their present pain and suffering that compels us to resist evil in all of its manifestations.

As United Methodists, we have revised, passed and adopted resolutions that support the work to take a stand against antisemitism in the world today.

As we approach the day of Pentecost and recognize the gift of the Holy Spirit, we lament the tragedies in Washington D.C., Boulder, Colorado, and in the Holy Land. My prayer and hope is we walk with an urgent, new commitment to work for peace.

Another Attack of a Different Kind

A Federal Budget is a Moral document.

Congress is attacking Americans among us who rely on federally funded social programs the most. The current plan for the federal budget proposes to cut

social benefits for those in need, in order to fund tax cuts for people with incomes over \$500,000 per year.

The proposed budget cut of \$800 billion to Medicaid and the Affordable care act, plus a \$300 billion cut from The Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP), an important hunger program that helps Americans afford food during difficult times, is a travesty of justice.

According to the American Food Industry Association, forty-two million Americans rely on food assistance. Seventy percent of American voters support the SNAP program as a needed government hunger program for seniors, the disabled, and families with young children.

Yes. We should be alarmed that the proposed federal budget would deny as many as twenty million children in working families from receiving the full \$2500 child tax credit because their parents who work in important, but low- paid jobs don’t earn enough.

Yes. The Church should speak out to prevent as many as fourteen million people losing health care. In addition to thousands of families in every state losing the financial support they need to put food on the table!

Actions You Can Take

As United Methodists, we Choose Grace over Greed.

Contact Your Senator and Congressperson via this Action Alert

Consider organizing in your local community with Churches to keep health care and food support benefits for those who need them most.

Be encouraged.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble
General Secretary
Board of Church and Society
UMCJustice.org

WAYS OF GIVING

July Coin Mission:

Today, more people than ever in recorded history have been forced to flee for their lives to another country or community — over 40% of them children. At World Relief, they serve these displaced families in countries across the world, including in the U.S. For 80 years, across 100 countries, World Relief has been engaging in the world's greatest crises in partnership with the church.



Due to the unexpected termination of their agreement to resettle refugees and the pause on foreign assistance funds for life-saving work, they now face a critical gap in supporting millions of families here in Oshkosh, across the U.S., and in fragile countries around the world. World Relief urgently needs support to provide necessities — including food, shelter, medical care, and more to families in crisis.

During July, our offering coins will support the critical work of World Relief. Please consider an additional gift via your offering envelope, online giving, or by check. Please be sure to indicate it's for World Relief.

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 your gifts.



Heads Up!

The parking lot is getting a facelift. Weather permitting, it will be mid-July. Thank you for your patience while the project is completed. During construction, please park on the street or in the Read School lot.

