

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.

abumc.orgSeptember 2023



FROM THE HEART OF PASTOR ELLEN - SEPTEMBER 2023

Dear Beloved ~

My heart bursts with love and joy for each of you. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I am grateful for your warm embrace and prayers as you continue to welcome me into our faith community. Thank you to all who have hosted and attended the "Meet & Greet" opportunities. There are more planned for this month, so please let us know which event works best for you. I am looking forward to our time together. Thank you for your graciousness regarding my food allergies and your willingness to figure things out with me. The hospitality has been outstanding. Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has shared a favorite passage so far with me or with Deb Nelson. We will continue the series in November, and then again in January/February 2024. We will share this series until all the shared passages have their Sunday time. Thank you for sharing.

We are entering our first fall together and I am excited for our worship events! We begin this month with a special Labor Day Weekend celebration (**ONE SERVICE AT 10 AM**) as we share in the Labor in the Pulpits/on the Bimah/In the Minbar interfaith program brought to us through the interfaith ministry of workerjustice.org. I am excited to share the 1908 and the current UMC Social Creed (umcjustice.org) as part of this service. Faith and labor have accomplished many great things together. On September 10, we partner with the leadership of our United Women in Faith (uwfaith.org) to celebrate their ministry and service in worship. On September 17, our youth will be sharing their summer mission trip and its impact on their discipleship journey. **On September 24, we will be having a blessing of the trees between services, so plan on staying late if you come for the 9 am service and arriving early, if you come for the 10:30 service.** In October, we will offer our 2023 Stewardship Campaign ~ *Earn. Save. Give: Wesley's Simple Rules for Money*. In November, we will celebrate All Saint's Day and end with the Reign of Christ Sunday and in between, revisit the *Favorite Things* series.

Fall is upon us. School is in session. Bible studies resume. God blesses us with the glorious autumn color scheme and invites us into the season of gathering and harvest. As we embrace this season, may we open our hearts, minds, and souls to God's goodness, grace, and invitation to ministry. God is in the midst of the city. We are in the midst of the city. I am excited for our adventure with God.

Love and Peace,
Pastor Ellen

“First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God” Adult Discussion Group

Why were the titles of Caesar Augustus — Divine, Song of God, God from God, Lord, Redeemer, Liberator, and Savior of the World — taken from a Roman emperor on the Palatine hill and given to a Jewish peasant on the Palestine plain? Was it a low lampoon or high treason? Either way, the Romans were not laughing. What were the priorities of Jesus' proclamation of the Kingdom? How was the status quo of Roman Imperial theology subverted by the obscure Galilean whose message continues to indict empire today?

First Light is a 12-session study (with hand-out reading materials and a video presentation) of the historical Jesus and the Kingdom of God with two of the world's leading Jesus scholars on location throughout Galilee and Jerusalem. The reading materials were written by Dominic Crossan who says, "It is all I have to say about Jesus after half a century of study in succinct summary."

The study begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 10, in the Fireside Room. On days the choir sings, the study will begin after the choir members can get to the Fireside Room.

Attendance is limited to 12 participants to encourage good discussion. Please sign up for the discussion group on the lobby table or with Don Nelson, discussion leader, and obtain the reading materials for the first lesson.



International Day of Peace



September 21, 2023

Each year the International Day of Peace (IDP) is observed around the world on September 21st. The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

One of the things that I have noticed is that we have not one, but two, peace poles. I am reminded of my time in Palestine and all the symbols of peace that I witnessed. The peace pole at St. George's Episcopal Cathedral in Jerusalem caught my eye, as well as the dove of peace on the outside wall of the WI'AM Conflict Resolution Center in Bethlehem, Palestine. For my friends in Palestine, living in peace is a very personal thing and is something that is sought after **every.single.day.**

You are invited to pray this prayer on another prayer for peace Thursday, September 21, 2023, as we mark the International Day of Peace.

Lead Us

Lord,

Lead us from death to life,
From falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world and our
universe.

Let us dream together, pray together and work
together,

To build one world of peace and justice for all.

~ Author unknown

- it is thought to be either an adaptation of a Hindu prayer or of a hymn. The first time that it was known to be publicly spoken was by Mother Teresa in 1981.

Love & Peace,
Pastor Ellen



United Women in Faith

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer! Even though the United Women in Faith have not held any business meetings during the summer, that does not mean that we were not busy!

Mission u:

First and foremost, Mission u was held. This year's theme was "Living the Kingdom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation." There were two formats offered. Mission u via Zoom was held on four evenings; June 20, 22, 27 and 29, 2023, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Participants could join in from their home, or group viewing was offered at various church locations. In person, Mission u was held at First United Methodist Church in Baraboo, Wisconsin, on July 13, 14 and 15.



In 2022, our unit participated in a watch party from ABUMC. This year, we realized that Pastor Ellen had agreed to be one of three

study leaders at the in-person event. Rachel Benton and I decided that we

would participate in the Baraboo event. If Pastor Ellen was going to be there, we were going to be there, too!

Dean of Mission u, Mary Lainberger, explained, "Mission u, for me, has always been a time set aside to learn, expand my thinking about the Bible, expand my thinking about how the study affects those around me (near and far) and make a conscious decision to make a difference in my community and the world we live in. As our amazing study leaders lead us through this study, I pray the Holy Spirit will speak to all of us; and lead us to be transformed persons!" As I speak for Rachel and myself, Mary's words were true for us as well. The opportunity to be with a community of women in this setting was an amazing experience.

I hope that in the years to come, more of us can take advantage of this time to be together at Mission u. The Wisconsin Conference United Women in Faith are some amazing women, and this opportunity for learning and leading is open to all people and all ages. It was a remarkable time of worship, singing, sharing, giving and more!

Next year's theme is: "Living the Kingdom" Part 2. Please consider participating. You will not be disappointed! You can tell by this picture that we were so happy to be together, even at the end of three long days. We were tired and prepared to travel home to Oshkosh. But we were also renewed and excited to worship with Pastor Ellen on her first Sunday, July 16, at ABUMC!

New Leadership:

On Saturday, July 29, an Installation service of Sally Vonner as General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith was held at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas.

Sally explained, "My primary focus is to continue and expand the mission and reach of United Women in Faith as we put our love and faith in action to change the world and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. I commit to lead with faith and trust in God, the support of the directors, the Program Advisory group, my colleague, and, most of all, the members of United Women in Faith."

Sally is grateful to her predecessor, Harriet Jane Olson, for her amazing leadership over the last 15 years. Go to the United Women in Faith Facebook page to watch the installation service or connect with many other opportunities for learning with the United Women in Faith.

September

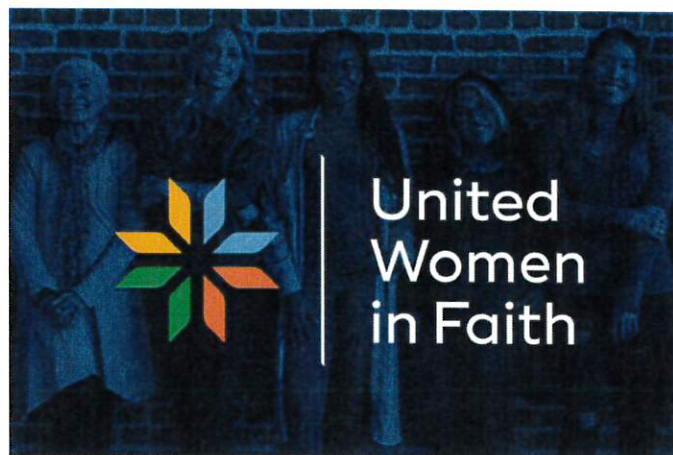
We have a busy month ahead in September. September 10th is United Women in Faith Sunday. Please join us in worship. United Women in Faith members will participate at both church services. In the past, we might have asked someone from the district or Wisconsin conference to be our featured speaker. However, this year, Pastor Ellen has been asked to share some of her experiences as an active participant in United Women in Faith.

We are looking forward to hearing Pastor Ellen and learning more about United Women in Faith at the same time.

September 19th will feature an all-church potluck supper. The meal will begin at 6 p.m. After the meal, our speaker will be Kate Olson from Esther/Fox Valley. A short business meeting will follow the speaker. Please plan on joining us on Tuesday evening.

On September 23rd, the North East District United Women in Faith will hold the "Annual Day of Celebration" at First United Methodist Church in Neenah. Our featured speaker will be Martha Boyer, former president of the Wisconsin Conference of United Women in Faith.

There is a \$20 registration fee, and the deadline to register is September 10th.



Order Your Pizzas!

The ABUMC Connections Team is selling pizzas to raise funds for our outreach programs. There will be a table in Paine Hall between worship services on September 3 and 10 to get your pizza order in. Orders also may be placed with any of our team members: Nancy Levesque, Paula Condor, Deb Madel, Karen Dustrude or Lisa-Marie Wesenberg. Pizzas will be \$8.00 each or 3 for \$23, and checks should be made payable to ABUMC. We will hand-make the pizzas Saturday, **September 30**, and you will be able to pick yours up that afternoon.

Choices are: plain cheese, sausage, pepperoni or sausage/pepperoni combo



Easy Ways to Help the Warming Shelter



Preparing a full meal isn't the only way to help the Day By Day Warming Shelter!

Here are a few other easy ways that individuals or families can help:

- Making a dish for dinner? Make an extra one for the shelter! They can freeze it and use it on Smorgasbord Night when there's no meal team.
- Order pizzas to be delivered to the shelter. (Lisa-Marie invited her neighbors to chip in \$10 each and ordered pizzas for the shelter one night in August)
- Help serve and clean up after a meal when the meal team has no servers.
- Bake desserts for nights when there's no meal team.
- Provide a pasta or potato salad when they're having Picnic Night
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Reach out to Michele at the shelter 920-203-4536 ext. 7 or michele@daybydayshelter.org with questions or to plan your donation.

September Coins

The Washington Park Neighborhood of Milwaukee is one rich in history. A community that came to be through the development of both a city park and industrial growth, Washington Park carries a legacy of a diverse community of people from all walks of life, with the city park as a cornerstone of the community.

But Washington Park faces challenges, too, and they are ones that reflect many other parts of the city of Milwaukee. With an unemployment rate of more than 15% and almost 50% of the population living below the poverty line, families in this neighborhood struggle with finding a sense of stability and hope.



United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin has been serving the Washington Park Neighborhood since the 1970s. Through services in housing, childcare, resources and community engagement, UMCS acts as a stepping stone for families on their way toward stability.

Our offering coins during the month of September will help United Methodist Children's Services of Wisconsin continue the essential work that they do in Milwaukee.

The Open Table

We are excited to offer a free home-cooked meal twice a month once again from September through May. The meals will be served the second and fourth Monday of the month, beginning September 11 from 5-6 p.m. We are always looking for folks interested in helping us prepare and serve the meals. Let Nancy Levesque or Lisa-Marie know that you'd like to help!

And we welcome **EVERYONE** to come and enjoy our meals. This means anyone from the community as well as our ABUMC friends. If you know someone who would benefit from this outreach, someone who could use a break from cooking, someone who could use some mealtime companionship, please invite them.



We Pedaled Out Hunger

On August 12th, ABUMC had eight riders bike in the annual Salvation Army *Pedal Out Hunger* event, of which our church was a sponsor. We enjoyed a beautiful morning ride of 11 miles (half of the team extended it to 17 miles!) and helped the Salvation Army feed people of our community who are in need. The Salvation Army has seen the number of guests who take part in their free meals and food pantry skyrocket. If you weren't able to join us for the ride but would like to donate to their programs, you can at centralusa.salvationarmy.org/oshkosh



An Exploration of Fresh Expressions Training – Unlocking a Fresh Expressions Vision in Your Congregation



How can ABUMC grow? How do we inspire our congregation to express our faith in new ways? Fresh Expressions is a training in Plymouth, WI on Saturday, September 30, and Sunday afternoon October 1. Fresh Expressions is a movement to grow churches through making connections around things people are already interested in—such as walking the dog, having dinner, playing games, working on cars, gardening, or any other topic.

Rev. Heather Jallad and Shannon Kiser, national leaders of Fresh Expressions, will teach the workshop, which is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Conference Lay Servant Ministries, the Sheboygan Lay Circuit NE 12, and the North East District.

- Hear real stories of everyday people of God reaching their networks and neighborhoods.
- Learn how ordinary people can start a new faith community using the “loving-first” journey.
- Discover simple and creative ways churches can connect with new people.
- Explore what fresh expressions might look like in your specific context.
- Discover how traditional established churches and new expressions work together.

Training will be hosted at First Congregational Church (1405 S. Milwaukee St., Plymouth, WI) Saturday 9am–3:30 pm, and Sunday 12:30 pm–4:30pm. Ecumenical worship and lunch are available Sunday morning 11:15 am–12:30 pm. All meals and snacks are included in the registration fee, which ABUMC will cover. Please contact the church office BEFORE September 23 if interested.