



ALGOMA BOULEVARD 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.*

abumc.org August 2022



Everyone's 'Grandma' Supported Early Days of ABUMC

"Grandma" Jerusha Sherburne was beloved by all church members who knew her, and she was a champion at raising money.

Her family was very important to Jerusha and her family included everyone in the church. Everyone called her "Grandma."

The church was also important. She was among the first to pledge support for a minister when one was called in 1874. Before that, ministers from First Methodist Church were the preachers for the Algoma Street Chapel, as it then was called. The church was a wooden structure that stood about where Paine Hall is now. The present sanctuary was not to be built for two decades. In those days, the corner of Algoma Boulevard and New York Avenue was at the northern edge of Oshkosh.

Jerusha was passionate about the need for an organ and raised the money to pay for it. She made house-to-house visits throughout the city and raised enough for the organ plus a surplus that was used to buy furniture for the chapel.

Her biographer notes: "No one was happier than she on the day the chapel was

dedicated in 1870. We can see her now as she sat near the front, in her low-cushioned chair, her face beaming with joy and satisfaction at what God had wrought in this part of the city."

This venerable woman was born Jerusha Stroud on Nov. 29, 1803, in New Hampshire and married Alvah Sherburne in 1832. They were farmers in Weyauwega before they moved to a farm next door to Jerusha's brother in the Oshkosh area. Jerusha and Alvah had five children. Besides her biological family, everyone in the church was like family to her. It was said, "The older portion of our church and community (was) glad for the privilege of looking into the face of this dear old lady."

Grandma Sherburne died in Oshkosh on May 30, 1890, at age 86.

Most of the information about Jerusha comes from the booklet, *Twenty-fifth Anniversary Souvenir of the Algoma Street Methodist Episcopal Church, 1872-1897*, found in the ABUMC archive. Other details are from census records and Oshkosh city directories.

— Kate Yarbro



Are you interested in learning more about the church? Do you want to take on the responsibilities of membership? A 4-session class begins in September. Please contact the church office with your contact information and what days/times work for your schedule. Email admin@abumc.org or call 920-231-2800.

Singles Gathering

ABUMC is launching a social group for adult individuals of any age who are single and would like an opportunity to gather occasionally with others for events, meals, and activities. Maybe you'd love to see a show at the Grand Opera House, meet at a restaurant for dinner, go for a hike, catch a sporting event, have a progressive dinner, take part in a game night, or attend a holiday party. The options are endless, and the group will have the opportunity to choose.

To get things started, we're having a kickoff get-together at church Sunday, Aug. 21, from 12:30-2ish. You will have a chance to share a cookout lunch and some conversation and give input regarding what types of activities or events would interest you for future group gatherings. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to connections@abumc.org or 920-231-2800 ext. 5, if possible. A small donation will be gratefully accepted to pay for the food and beverages.



Faith Factory Revamp

It's almost September, time for the kickoff to our Faith Factory Sunday School program. We're excited to offer a new opportunity for our youths to expand and engage their faith in a fun, interactive way. We are going to offer a **combined class for all students**, where our older kids can learn while also mentoring their younger counterparts. Beginning Sept. 18, we'll all meet at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary for the opening worship song, then go upstairs to Room 204 until 10. Kids can expect videos, projects, competitions, service opportunities and more as we explore God's Word and what our relationship with Jesus Christ looks like. The first Sunday of every month we will participate in the 9 a.m. worship service instead of having class.



Free Meal Outreach

Our free community meal program will start up again this month. We will serve a meal Monday, Aug. 29, from 5-6 p.m. Beginning in September, we are switching things up a bit and expanding our outreach. We will provide a meal twice each month, on the second and fourth Monday. The second Monday we will feature soup and sandwiches, and the fourth Monday will be a different hot entree each month. Please get the word out to anyone you know who may benefit from a night without cooking or the expense of a meal. We are always looking for people who would love to help with this awesome endeavor, chopping and stirring, serving and cleaning, greeting and chatting. Check in with Lisa-Marie and see how you can be part of the team.

ALL-AGE MISSION TRIP

You are invited to take part in a mission trip to Baldwin, Louisiana, Feb. 19-24, 2023. The ABUMC multi-gen mission trip has been postponed the past three years because of the pandemic, and we are excited to get back on track! We have a small group already registered and we would love to add more eager volunteers to join us.

The UMCOR Sager Brown Depot is the hub of UMCOR's relief-supply operations. Each year, more than 2,000 volunteers prepare about \$5 million in supplies for shipment from the Baldwin, Louisiana, facility. UMCOR Sager Brown reaches out to its local neighbors through food distribution and housing rehabilitation projects, engaging volunteers in these projects that help families and the elderly.

Please reach out to Lisa-Marie for more information, connections@abumc.org or 920-231-2800, ext. 5.



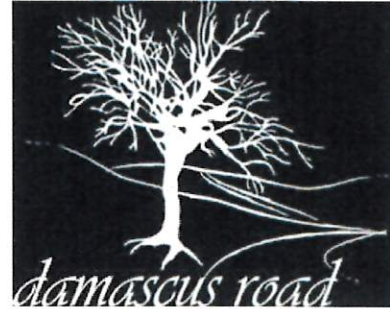
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We need volunteers to help with all the details of hosting a funeral. Depending on the family's wishes we often need help with the following things:

- Setting out catered food for lunch and clean up after.
- Helping receive and place floral arrangements.
- Setting up easels and tables for visitation pictures and other momentos.
- Greeting people and ushering.
- Helping with volume on the sound system when guests speak.

If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact the church office. email admin@abumc.org or call 920-231-2800. No experience necessary.

August Coins: Damascus Road



Damascus Road, located right here in Oshkosh, is dedicated to fighting the evil of human trafficking and sexual exploitation. They bring awareness through educating, restoring, and empowering the abused, and advocating for the prevention and abolition of human trafficking.

Damascus Road conducts training, partners with law enforcement and performs outreach. Their staff is entirely volunteers, and their work is 100% funded by donations. When we place coins in the offering basket during August, we are assisting them with the vital work of helping victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation. Additional gifts may be submitted to the church and marked for *Damascus Road*.

According to their literature:

-There are more enslaved people alive today than any other time in history.
-There are roughly 30 million people held and abused today, against their will.

-It's estimated that there are up to 300,000 victims of sex trafficking in the U.S. each year.

-The average age of entry into the sex industry is 13 years old.

Gail Sullivan: Love of the Church Through Service



Gail Sullivan has been a member of the Methodist church all her life, and

when she and her husband, Mike, moved to Oshkosh in 1989, they quickly found a church family at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church.

They had two young children then, Ryan, who is deaf, and Maggie. Ryan was attending the hearing impaired and deaf program at Read School next door to the church, and they found a home to rent just two doors away from the church.

After attending their first service here, “Mac” McDaniels and his wife, Jean, came to their house a few hours later to welcome with newcomers with a loaf of bread.

“They used to do bread ministry in this church,” Gail says, “so there was Mac and Jean, bringing us bread to thank us for coming. We thought that was so awesome and so sweet and friendly. It made us feel good and welcome. It wasn’t long before we joined, and we’ve been here ever since.”

Gail is originally from Nashville, Tennessee, and she and Mike met when both were working in a bank there. They married in 1977, lived in Wausau, Wisconsin, for five years, Denver,

Colorado, for a year, then came back to Wisconsin.

Gail and Mike joined ABUMC in July 1989, and Ryan and Maggie both grew up and were confirmed at the church.

Gail feels strongly about being an active member of the parish. “I was brought up in the Methodist Church from the time I was young,” she says. “My mother was a strong force in my life. She passed that same awareness along to me. I always loved the church I’ve always enjoyed it and the people I met. I’ve always felt a strong relation to being in the Methodist Church.”

At ABUMC, Gail has been involved in numerous activities, including the Sunday School education committee, staff parish committee, finance committee and the Board of Trustees. She also has taught Sunday School, helped with Vacation Bible School, taught adult sign language classes, and interpreted for Sunday School.

She is a longtime member of United Methodist Women, now called United Women in Faith, has helped in the office, and also participates in serving monthly meals for the community.

Mike also is active in music ministry.

The biggest benefit to being a member of ABUMC, Gail says, is the people. “Some of the people we met at church are still some of our best friends,” she says, including Pam and Dick Ames and Jack and Kathy Propp. “Our basic, good friends have been our church friends.”

United Women in Faith: 153 Years and the Whole Story

For a long time, the full names of all the women who founded the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in March 1869 were lost to history. They were known only by their husbands' names. Then, leading up to our 150th anniversary celebration in March 2019, New England Conference Historian Patricia Thompson did some digging and found them. Today we can name our founders by their own names: Clementina Rowe Butler, Lois Lee Parker, Eliza Tucker Flanders, Frances Henshaw Kingsbury, Maria Taylor Rich, Mary Dyer Merrill, Rebecca Spear Taylor and Mary Phillips Stoddard.

Clemintina Butler and Lois Parker were wives of missionaries to India and made a plea to a group of women in Boston about the spiritual and physical needs of poor women in India. They could not be treated by male doctors. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Help was desperately needed.

They called another meeting, wrote a constitution, and organized the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. By November 1869, the newly formed organization raised funds and sent educator Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to India.

Ms. Thoburn began a school with just six young girls. That school went on to become Isabella Thoburn College,

Asia's first women's college. Dr. Swains' medical work resulted in the first women's hospital in Asia. Both institutions continue to serve the people of India today.

Deaconesses and Home Missioners

Sixty deaconesses and home missioners from 29 conferences were consecrated at the United Women in Faith Assembly 2022 in Orlando, Florida.

Deaconesses and home missioners are lay people in The United Methodist Church who have responded to the call of God to full-time ministries of love, justice, and service. Individuals consecrated and commissioned to the Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, administrated by United Methodist Women, form a covenant community in service as a lay order.

This consecration also included, for the first time, two deaconesses from the Kenya-Ethiopia Conference of The United Methodist Church.

After discerning the call to lay ministry, deaconess and home missioner candidates finish a course of study to ensure biblical, sociological, and theological grounding in their ministries. They dedicate their lives to mission-oriented service as part of a lay diaconate. — Sandy Butcher



Wind Damage



Thanks to Steve, Dean, Lisa-Marie, Bruce, and Deb for handling a massive amount of wood in the church lawn after the storms in July.

WE LOVE
OUR VOLUNTEERS

LEAVE A LEGACY

Lunch and Learn

Noon, Sunday, Aug. 7

FREE- Join us for lunch and a one hour Planned Giving Seminar:

What will your legacy be?

Have you considered leaving a legacy gift to a church ministry that has touched your heart? Join us as we talk about ways to give to church beyond the offering plate.

Presented by the experts from the WI UM Foundation.

Sign up in the church office.

United Women in Faith Reading Program

The United Women in Faith Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. The Reading Program is for adults, youth, and children. There are enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

Many Reading Program books address issues including climate change, mass incarceration and racism. The books often raise concerns about people, countries, and issues.

Check with Jan Nash, Rachel Benton, or Sandy Butcher for more information.

— Sandy Butcher



Loose Coin Offering Impact

Each month the loose coins given in the offering plates go to different mission projects. People are also welcome to designate additional gifts to those projects in their offering envelopes. Our gifts continue to make a difference locally, nationally, and globally.

In 2022, we've given to these projects.

Jan/Feb –\$255

Red Bird Christian School, Kentucky

March – \$204

Harbor House Crisis Shelter, Superior, WI

April – \$262 UMCOR-Ukraine

United Methodist Committee on Relief

May – \$297

Mercy Ships, Mission Hospitals

June – \$167

Bashor Children's Home, Indiana



Pastor Cathy will be having surgery at the end of August to help with issues from an ongoing pinched nerve. She will be off for a week as she recovers. In case of emergency, contact the church office and an on-call pastor will help. 920-231-2800

Guest Preachers in August



August 7th - Rev Jason Mahnke

Rev. Jason Mahnke is the Director of Programming and Campaigns at the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Jason loves helping churches discover resources for ministry

that equips them to live out their God-sized vision. Prior to his work with The Foundation, Jason served as Pastor to United Methodist congregations of all sizes for 25 years. He received the Harry Denman Evangelism Award in 2017. Jason lives in Oregon, WI with his wife Joanna and children Grady and Macy, is an avid sports and Star Wars fan, and enjoys snuggle time with his two pugs, Charlie and Vader.

August 28th - Rev. Breanna Illéné with musical guest, Ben Weger

Rev. Breanna Illéné is the Curator of Content and Ecumenical Innovation Coordinator and her role includes communications; identifying, celebrating and sharing innovative ministries (particularly those involving

ecumenical cooperation); building strategic relationships and broadening opportunities for ecumenical engagement. She has an MA in Social Justice (Loyola University-Chicago), an MA in Christian Education (Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary) and an MDiv (Iliff School of Theology) and is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. Rev. Illéné is based in South-Central Wisconsin.

