



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.orgNovember 2022

Capital Campaign 2022 Preserve ABUMC's Legacy

Following God's Call: Commitment to Mission and Ministry in 2023

In the midst of an exciting Capital Campaign designed to catch up on significant deferred maintenance projects, we recognize that it is your generosity to this church's General Fund that propels the important work of building, connecting, and growing as people of faith.

The budget covers an excellent staff as well as programs, worship, outreach, and basic building maintenance. It pays for heat and lights, lawn care, snow removal, phone and internet. The budget helps us continue to plant and nurture seeds of faith, so that they can begin to grow in the congregation, the neighborhood, and the community.

As we celebrate 150 years as a congregation, we consider what faith has grown because of the work of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church starting in 1872.

Several years ago we had twin, elementary school-age boys come to worship from time to time. They sat in the back and fidgeted until they couldn't sit still any longer and left to get cookies. Recently, two young adults

approached Pastor Cathy and asked if she remembered them. The brothers were back in the neighborhood visiting and wanted to check in with their church. They came to worship that Sunday and said they'd be back any time they are in town.

Kindness to some wiggly kids planted a seed. Our commitment to nurturing those teenagers helps us keep doing God's work in ways we can't begin to imagine, with outcomes that we may never know about.

During the pandemic, we had to worship online. We've decided to keep offering online worship so that we can reach out to shut-ins, people on vacation, snow-birds, and people we haven't met yet. Recently we got an email from a couple who have been worshipping with us online, and we may get to meet them in person. Worship in new ways planted some seeds.

Because we work together to fund our budget, we keep partnering with the Holy Spirit to plant, nurture, and grow faith. Covering our budget equips us to do ministry. Meeting our budget each year allows us to continue doing ministry. Exceeding our

budget helps us plant more seeds and grow in more ways.

Why is this important? We have experienced something at ABUMC that has connected us to God. But it isn't just for us. We are called to plant seeds of faith and share the Good News. In order to become a place for more people to build, connect, and grow their faith, it is important that our building be maintained and our staff and volunteers have the resources they need to do ministry in all the ways we can.

Why now?

When we are active in contributing to our budget, it allows us to move forward in faith and experience new and exciting opportunities as we serve God.

What are the benefits?

- Building connections in the community
- Bringing hope and help to others
- Sharing faith in new ways with new people
- Supporting mental and spiritual health
- Providing the funding for first-rate staff and facilities supports current ministries and helps us launch new ministries that will have impact as we follow God's call and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Because of the generosity of the congregation and close attention to spending through 2022, church finances are in a healthy position. As we launch into the next year, we need the resources to reach people with God's love and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Please prayerfully consider your estimate of giving for the Church's General Fund in 2023. Each gift helps us partner with God in the work of planting, nurturing, and growing faith.

Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like what happens when a farmer scatters seed in a field." Mark 4:26



Building. Connecting. Growing.

ABUMC was founded 150 years ago and today we build on that foundation with the Capital Campaign and support for the General Fund.

The love for God and the love for our neighbor rings through our worship services where all are truly welcome. A commitment to our Capital Campaign is a commitment to care for our building, launch new ministries and continue the work of those who came before us. Because of God's love and grace, we have so much to give. As we work to fund this campaign, we listen for God's continued call to reach out into the world with love for all our neighbors. As we embark on our capital campaign effort, it is vital to continue to fund our 2023 General Fund.

Campaign highlights:

- Parking lot: \$100,000
- Sewer line replacements: \$55,864
- Window painting/repair: \$35,000
- Boiler replacement: \$100,000
- Security system: \$7,000
- Sanctuary lightbulb replacement/electric work: \$50,000
- Carpeting replacement: \$85,000
- Tuckpointing: \$50,000

Community outreach:

- ABUMC hosts fun-filled children's activities for Read Elementary School.
- Our kitchen feeds God's hungry people.
- The parking lot is Grand Central Station for school drop offs and pickups.
- Within the walls of our church, we prepare youth for mission work.
- Classes within our building provide lifelong learning, from discussion groups to financial planning.

Our Team Leaders

- Barby Ames, communication, publicity
- Richard Graeber, production
- Kathy Propp and Chuck Davis, Advance Gifts
- Deb Nelson, auditor
- Diane Rospel, kickoff event
- Jack Stubbs and Laura Deming, calling
- Craig Blumer and Barb Diener-Blumer, front porch delivery
- Keith Wolf, spiritual emphasis
- Lisa-Marie Wesenberg, children and youth
- Nancy Irvine, chairman of capital campaign committee
- Cathy Weigand, pastor
- The Rev. Jason Mahnke, UM Foundation

*And now you are living stones
being used to build a spiritual
house. 1 Peter 2:5a*

SAVE THE DATES!

Annual Church Meeting

Saturday, December 10th
9:30 a.m.

Winter Camp 2023



Winter Camp 2023 will be held January 6-8, 2023, at Lake Lucerne Camp near Neshkoro, Wisconsin. Winter Camp is a time away to enjoy the outdoors, winter sports, relaxing by the fire and sharing with friends new and old. People stay in heated cabins with amenities provided and enjoy family-style meals together.

Registration will be in December but mark your calendars now for this event.

If you have any questions, contact Craig or Barb Blumer. Their contact information is available through the church office.



Living the Questions Adult Study will begin a new 7 session class, Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The series will run from November 6 - December 18.

The videos and lessons include:

- Restoring Relationships
- The Prophetic Jesus
- Evil, Suffering & A God of Love
- The Myth of Redemptive Violence
- Practicing Resurrection
- Debunking the Rapture
- Honoring Creation



Groceries? Gas Cards? Gift Ideas?

If you would like to order any gift cards from the SCRIP program, Anne will be placing an order on November 20th with delivery on Sunday, November 27th. Send your order details and check (made out to ABUMC) to: A. Fields 1675 Deerfield Dr. Oshkosh, WI 54904

Also, you can individually sign up with ShopwithScrip.com to reorder or reload cards without waiting for Anne to place an order. If this interests you, please let Anne know and she'll guide you through setting up your account so that ABUMC benefits from the rebates of your purchase.

Celebrating Our Past in Worship November 20th

As part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration, we've invited many of our former pastors as well as people we have helped launch into ministry.

Some will be sending letters and videos, others, including Rev. Gordon Lind, plan to be here in person.

You won't want to miss the opportunity to give thanks for ABUMC's past as well as the call God continues to place on our faithful work as the body of Christ.

Capital Campaign Estimates of Giving

If you have not yet turned in your Estimate of Giving for the Capital Campaign and for the General Operating Budget, please take some time to pray over the form and ask God how you are being called to give and serve.

The Steering Committee for the Campaign will be following up with people we haven't yet heard from. If, after time in prayer, you cannot give this year, we understand. Please write that on your estimate and send it in so that we don't follow up with you.

The total from everyone's estimates of giving will be announced in worship on October 30th, (but the newsletter had to go to print before then). Check the website and weekly emails to hear the good news! And keep praying for God's presence in all that we do.

United Women in Faith

Cookie Walk

December 10th



Plan ahead for all your holiday baking needs. Please drop off your baked goods at church on Friday, December 9th.

Assembly 2022

More than 3,000 United Women in Faith gathered in Orlando, Florida, and online for United Women in Faith's Assembly 2022, held May 20-22 at the Orange County Convention Center. Twenty-four countries and all 50 states were represented at the event with the theme "Turn It Up!"

Assembly is a celebratory gathering held once every four years that brings thousands of women together for worship, learning and connection. This year was the 20th quadrennial Assembly — and the first as United Women in Faith.

Sixty deaconesses and home missionaries from 29 conferences were consecrated at Assembly 2022. Deaconesses and home missionaries are laypeople in The United Methodist Church who have responded to the call of God to full-time ministries of love, justice and service. Six United Methodist bishops participated in consecrating the largest-ever class. Two deaconesses from the Kenya-Ethiopia Conference of The United Methodist Church were the first to be consecrated in the African region.

The first-ever Legacy Banquet in support of the Legacy Endowment Fund was held on May 21. More than \$46,000 was raised for the permanently invested endowment that ensures the future of our work.

We affirm that our core values of faith, action and sisterhood will remain and continue to feed our souls and inspire our work.



Advent Discussion Group Focuses on "Joy"

"An Introduction to Joy," a Tuesday evening Advent discussion group, will meet at 6:30 p.m. Nov. 29 through Dec. 20 in the Fireside Room. It will be led by retired Pastor Keith Wolf.

We will view a 20-minute video, followed by discussion focusing on the topic of finding joy in the midst of our ordinary, messy and tumultuous everyday lives. "I think the topic and small-group discussions will be a great preparation for celebrating the true joy of Christ's birth," he says.

There is no reading or preparation required. Just bring yourself. But please inform the church office if you plan to participate.



Read in Need

Once again we have the awesome opportunity to step up and help our little friends next door at Read Elementary School. The school has its largest enrollment in years, as well as a lot of new staff. There are two ways in which the school is reaching out to us for our assistance.

#1: They are looking for people to be mentors to students. Following is a description of the program.

The mission of the Read Elementary School mentoring program is to empower youth through the development of consistent and positive one-on-one adult relationships. Mentors visit Read Elementary School once a week during the school day to meet with mentees for roughly 20 minutes. Mentorship usually takes place during lunchtime. Time with students is typically spent playing games, asking questions and discussing progress in school. The ultimate goal is to build a positive, encouraging relationship! All mentors commit to participate in the program for the duration of the school year, if possible. Background checks are required.

#2: They are also looking for reading buddies. Adults are needed in the classrooms to sit and listen while children practice reading to them. Commitments vary by teacher.

Please contact Lisa-Marie to get involved in the lives of our littlest neighbors!

connections@abumc.org or 920-231-2800, ext. 5.



Operation Christmas Child

By Evan Numrich

Why?

We do Operation Christmas Child for the people in different countries who can't get a Christmas present. These kids may only get one Christmas present their entire lives and we need to provide these presents for them and share God's love!

What can you do?

Please give us donations to put in the shoeboxes .

- notebooks, pens/pencils, coloring supplies, small toys and accessories and others things from this QR code list

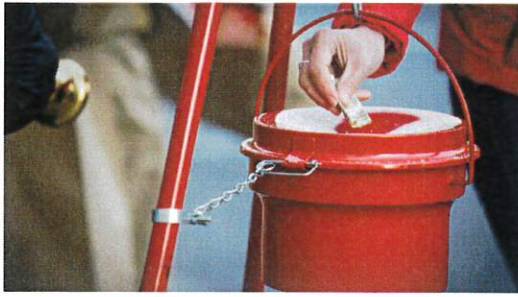


- We can also accept donations for shipping & supplying shoeboxes. It is \$10 per box for shipping this year.

When?

- Place donations in the bin labeled
- Operation Christmas Child in the hallway.
- Items can be dropped off Oct.30th - Nov. 19th (must have by a.m. on Nov. 20th)
- Evan Numrich will lead Sunday school with gift packing Sunday November 20, 2022 during 9:00 service.





Bell Ringin' Time

The Salvation Army needs bell ringers for all their various locations, and now's the time to sign up! Registering at [RegisterToRing.com](https://www.salvationarmyusa.org/register-to-ring) is user-friendly and takes only minutes. Enter a date range and preferred location and reserve your favorite spot.

History of the Red Kettle

In 1891, Salvation Army Captain Joseph McFee was distraught because so many poor individuals in San Francisco were going hungry. During the holiday season, he resolved to provide a free Christmas dinner for the destitute and poverty-stricken. He only had one major hurdle to overcome — funding the project.

Where would the money come from, he wondered. He lay awake nights, worrying, thinking, praying about how he could find the funds to fulfill his commitment of feeding 1,000 of the city's poorest individuals on Christmas Day. As he pondered the issue, his thoughts drifted back to his sailor days in Liverpool, England. He remembered how at Stage Landing, where the boats came in, there was a large, iron kettle called "Simpson's Pot" into which passers-by tossed a coin or two to help the poor.

The next day Captain McFee placed a similar pot at the Oakland Ferry Landing at the foot of Market Street. Beside the pot, he placed a sign that read, "Keep the Pot Boiling." He soon had the money to see that the needy people were properly fed at Christmas.

November Coins

Hurricane Ian, whose maximum sustained winds of 150 mph tied it as the fifth-strongest hurricane on record to strike the United States, made landfall in Florida on Sept. 28, 2022. As Ian struck Florida, the magnitude of the devastation brought by this slow-moving storm quickly became evident. The strong winds, rain and punishing 18-foot storm surge caused severe flooding, demolished homes and businesses, and caused more than 100 deaths. Ian's destruction was not confined to one state. After traversing Florida, the storm journeyed up the coast causing even more devastation in additional southern mid-Atlantic and northern states.

UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, will be helping in recovery efforts for months to come. 100% of monetary donations go directly to those in need. Our offering coins in November will go to the UMCOR U.S. Domestic Response fund to help those affected by the hurricane.



The History of ABUMC Stained-Glass Windows

The windows in the sanctuary of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church are stained Venetian and opalescent glass, designed by Johnson & Co. of Chicago. The total cost was about \$1,000, which has a value of more than \$27,000 today. Some of the windows were paid for by donors whose names are written on them.

We will be sharing descriptions of each of our stained-glass windows in upcoming newsletters.

Porte-cochere:



The entrance from New York Avenue is technically the *porte-cochere*, a French term meaning “carriage entrance.” It could be surmised that it didn't have the

steps that are now there. There might have been a roof where a carriage could be sheltered so that people could get into the church without getting wet when it rained. Of course, a driver would have to park the horse and carriage somewhere else and get wet while walking to an entrance.

This entrance is shared between the sanctuary and Paine Hall. The two windows in this small room are light in color, allowing daylight into the entryway. Like several windows throughout the sanctuary, these bear no inscription and are not attributed to donors.

Bell Tower Entrance:



At the northwest corner of the church is the bell tower with an entrance to the sanctuary. There is a leaded glass window with the name ‘Truth Seekers’. This window was donated by the Truth Seekers, one of the church’s Sunday school classes in 1892.

This corner of the church is the one closest to the corner of Algoma Boulevard and New York Avenue. It was designed to be the main entrance. This is a large, half-moon-shaped window, with three smaller windows below.

Inside the tower there is a group of stained-glass windows that bears the inscription: “The Lord loveth the gates of Zion,” taken from Psalm 87, verse 2. It is a reference to the city of Zion, also known as the city of God. The quotation is a way of saying that when you enter the church, you are in the presence of God.