

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*

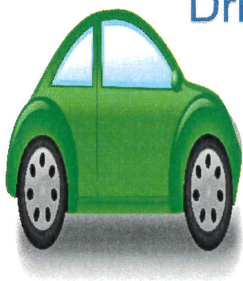
abumc.org March 2022

Around the Church

YOUTH GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS

Continued prayers as we prepare for the mission trip in June!

Watch for more information about our 30-Hour Famine in April.



Drivers Needed for Community Pantry

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is in need of drivers to pick up food items from grocery stores. It would require just one day per week for one to three hours.

Must be able to load and unload the items. Sign up
https://www.volunteeroshkosh.org/need/detail/?need_id=482594

Snacks for Read School

We are collecting small pre-packaged snacks, such as granola bars or goldfish crackers (nothing too sugary, please), for our young neighbors at Read School. When kids forget or are unable to bring something for their morning snack, the teachers end up supplying it. Please drop off your donations in the missions collection bins in the church hallway.



Ash Wednesday Worship
March 2nd - 7:00 pm

CIRCUIT RIDER REMINDER:
Stories for the Circuit Rider are due by the **15th the month** to Jaye Alderson.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

We begin the liturgical season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd.

What is Ash Wednesday?
 What is Lent all about?
 Why do we observe this season of holiness?
 How can it be meaningful for you this year?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It emphasizes a dual encounter: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality.

The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins. The Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful nonverbal and experiential way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians.

We talk about Lent lasting 40 days, starting on Ash Wednesday and ending with the celebration of Easter. But if you look at a

calendar, you'll see that it is more than 40 days. Sundays are excluded in the 40 day count, although different branches of Christianity count the days differently.

The 40 days included in the observance of Lent reminds us of the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert before beginning his public ministry. In that 40 days, he was tempted as he faced suffering.

Lent prepares us walk with Jesus to the cross and to deepen our faith. Spiritual practices during Lent can include prayer, fasting, repentance of sins, giving, and self-denial.

When we give something up or take something on for Lent, it is a daily reminder of what Jesus sacrificed in his 40 days in the desert. It gives us a daily action that reminds us of Jesus' life, his teachings, and all that he gave so that others could experience God's forgiveness and grace.

Some people choose to read a daily devotional through Lent. If you are interested in that, we have a variety of books at the church that you are welcome to use.

This year, I'm planning to read *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

Other people commit to doing one act a day. There's a calendar included in the newsletter that gives some ideas.

How can you give, serve, share, and intentionally experience God's presence during this season of Lent?



Pastor Cathy

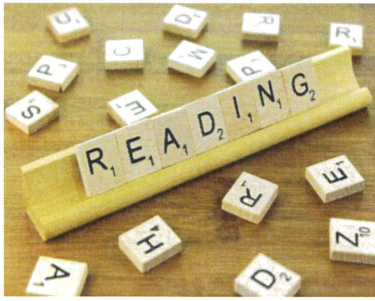
Acts of Kindness Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Leave a nice note in a library book	Give someone an 8-Second Hug	Send someone a nice note	Donate old books	Don't complain all day long	Leave a nice note on a mirror	Give a compliment
Pick up trash in your neighborhood	Be kind to a stranger	Draw a picture for someone	Bake yummy goodies for someone	SMILE at everyone you see today	Do someone else's chores for them	Water plants
Feed the birds	Write a gratitude list (20 things)	Pick up trash you see on the ground	Leave an extra tip	Bring someone flowers (or draw a picture of flowers)	Recycle	Share with another person
Donate old clothes	Help an elderly person	Walk someone's (or your own) dog	Make a list of 10 things you're thankful for	Tell someone the reasons you like them	Hold the door for someone	Donate to a local animal shelter
Offer water to those in need	Help make dinner	Make a bird feeder	Donate old toys	Make someone laugh	Write positive messages on the sidewalk	Write a thank you note

Here are some daily actions you can practice through Lent. Change them to better fit your life. Make them meaningful for you. Repeat any that have impact in your life.

Start on Ash Wednesday and continue through Easter. You'll need more than these, so think about what else you'd like to do and which ones you might repeat.

God's blessings on a Holy Lent!



INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

This month we begin the season of LENT. We have too many books that relate to Lent to list, but this is a start. Some adult or youth books may be in a section marked with a sticker. You will find some books for children that will help them understand why we have a special time of the year that we named Lent.

ADULTS/ YOUTHS:

- *Easter Stories — Classic Tales for the Holy Season* has been compiled by Miriam LeBlanc. Included are excerpts from stories written by many notable authors such as C.S. Lewis, Oscar Wilde, Tolstoy, Chekhov and Selma Lagerlof. Look for the story of Robin Redbreast to find out why they are no longer all grey. How can an old dust rag make colorful Easter Eggs?
UMW Reading Program area (SG. 808 Lew)
- *Zealot, The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth* was written by Reza Aslan (232 Asl) who was born as a Muslim but as a teenager was introduced to faith in Jesus Christ during a youth camp experience. Take time to read the author's notes. The book

is not similar to reading the gospels. He approaches the life story of Jesus in a different way. Do you agree with or argue with the author?

- Sue Nilson Kibbey has written a “jump-starter” book, *Flood Gates: Holy Momentum for a Fearless Church*. She motivates congregations as they come out from the malaise of the pandemic toward the path of action and faith that produces the vibrancy of a living, growing church.

CHILDREN:

One of the responsibilities of parents is to help their children develop a faith that supports them during the up and down times during their lives. Faith in God is one of those props. Books are a helpful resource. You will enjoy reading to them.

- For very young children, they will enjoy, *For God So Loved the World*, by Dandi Daley Machall. (J Fic Mac). The illustrations help to develop the theme. Along the edge of each page is John 3:16 written in a different language.
- *The Story of Jesus*, adapted by Maxine Nodel and part of the Great Bible Stories series (220.95 Nod), tells the story of Jesus life through the resurrection. Simple words and helpful illustrations are used.
- *EASTER A to Z, Every Letter Tells a Story* was written by Lisa Flinn and Barbara Younger (J263 Fli). The letters of the alphabet are used on the left-side

pages with an appropriate word from part of the story. The right-side pages tell the story in words. An Illustration joins the two pages.

- For older children, the book *The Easter Story*, by Stephanie Jeffs (J232 Jef), tells about the last week of Jesus' life including the resurrection. Decorated borders and an illustration enhance the appeal of the book.

Other books about Jesus's ministry and Lent also will be displayed until after Easter.

May God bless you as you prepare for a joy-filled Easter.

— Rachel Benton

Sand Volleyball!!!

We may all be a bit out of practice (thanks, COVID), but it's time to dust off the cobwebs and get ready for the annual sand volleyball event! Head out to The Bar of Oshkosh Sunday, March 6, from 2:30-4:30 for some fun, exercise and lots of laughs! ANYONE, 6th grade to adult, regardless of skill, experience, coordination, etc., is welcome to join us. We just like to get together, put our toes in the sand, and have some fun. We always like to have cheerleaders, too! If you'd like to support The Bar, please join us after volleyball for a beverage or bite to eat. Let Lisa-Marie know if you'll join us, so we have enough courts.

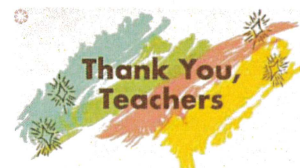


Student Love!

All 15 of our ABUMC college students were quickly snatched up and "adopted" for our College Care Package mission! In a short time, the students will receive a package showing how much they are loved by their church family. Several of the care packages will be hand-delivered here in Oshkosh, but nine will need to be shipped. If you would like to help out with this part of the mission, we are gratefully accepting donations of \$5 to help pay for shipping costs. You may see Lisa-Marie with your donation or send it to church, marked *College Care Packages*. If you are one of the gift-givers, please be sure to return your package, with the student's name on the envelope, by Feb. 27. Thank you all for taking part in this fun, loving activity!

Read Staff Appreciation

It should be no surprise that the last two school years have been especially challenging and stressful for teachers and all staff at our schools. To continue to be good neighbors, support Read Elementary School and show our appreciation to the hard-working, dedicated employees, ABUMC will be providing a lunch for the 50 or so staff members on Friday, March 4, from 10:50 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. at the school. We are looking for many individuals to provide tasty homemade appetizers, breads, soups, salads and treats. Will you please help us recognize the dedication and efforts of these fine neighbors? You may prepare your item in advance and drop it off at church or you are welcome to use our wonderful church kitchen that day if you'd like. It also would be helpful to have a few people to help deliver the food. Please let Lisa-Marie know how you can contribute. It will be important to know how much food to expect and be sure that we have enough!



Vaccine Clinic #2

The second of our two vaccination clinics will be held Wednesday, March 16, 2:30-5:30 p.m. in Paine Hall. Anyone age 5+ in need of their first or second shot is welcome. Booster shots for 12+ are also available. Several organizations are providing resources, such as kids' books, diapers and hygiene items, as well as a delicious snack to-go! Please let your friends and neighbors know.

March Coins

When you drop your coins in the offering basket in March, you will be supporting Harbor House Crisis Shelters. Harbor House, in Superior, Wisconsin, is a health and welfare ministry in covenantal relationship with the Wisconsin Conference. Harbor House is the only homeless shelter for single women, children and families in Douglas County and serves most families of the five northern counties. Its case management includes budgeting, life skills for children and adults, and community resources and referrals. The Transitional Living Center provides affordable, supportive housing. Several years ago, the ABUMC middle school mission trip went to Superior and served at Harbor House.



United Methodist



Women Cookie Walk Update

United Methodist Women promised you a Cookie Walk update, and we are happy to report that we had a very successful Cookie Walk 2021. With your help, we had sales of more than \$1,500 — the second highest amount in the past six years!

This year, the Cookie Walk provided us with some unusual challenges. We planned, as best we could, with the familiar COVID-19 guidelines. As we set up on Friday, we were masked, gloved, socially distanced and stretched like never before. We rose to the challenge and we were ready.

What we were not ready for was the Blizzard of What The Heck Do We Do Now? Well, we did what we always do. We showed up, we set up, we hoped and prayed, we waited, we waited some more, drank a little coffee, and then we finally had our first customers! Then a few more customers came, and a few more. The mailman stopped by!! An impromptu planning meeting was held, and 30 boxes of cookies "became available" for Sunday worshippers. After Sunday's worship, more plans were made, and boxes were sold throughout Evergreen Retirement Community and through the church office. In the end, the majority of the

cookies were sold. We are so grateful to all of the people who were so gracious in their support of Cookie Walk 2021.

With the proceeds from this event, your church's UMW will use these funds to continue our support of area missions. Our local unit will make an annual gift to The Christine Ann Center, The Boys and Girls Club, Oshkosh Day by Day Warming Shelter, The Teacher's Closet, Northcott Neighborhood Center and Mission U.

For 152 years, United Methodist Women has supported programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youths – thereby impacting entire communities. This year, our Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church is celebrating 150 years at this location. As we are looking back at our history, let's be thankful for the women and men who laid this foundation for us. We have a beautiful building that continues to impact our community because of all the people today with a heart for mission.

Thank you. — Sandy Butcher

