

(continued) I've promised to help set up service opportunities and connect mentors. I've asked that the church have a small celebration of some sort when the hours are completed.

I pray that we can build a great relationship with this kid. I see so many beautiful opportunities.

I've felt God in all of this. In the conversations with the family and the child, in the prayerful work of engaging the possibilities, in the willingness of volunteers to make a difference in the life of a child.

By entering the situation with grace, by sitting with God and all of the possibilities, we have an opportunity to love and support our neighbors in ways we might never have imagined.

The responsibility lies with the child, not the family. And some responsibility lies with me and with mentors, to make a difference in the life of a child.

We still don't know how the story ends. So I ask that you pray with me - for this child and for the family. For the other family, that hasn't yet reached out to me, and whatever fears are holding them back. Pray with me about how we love God and love our neighbors in more of the ways that Jesus taught us.

Service hours begin this week and they are expected to wrap up in March. I pray that kindness flourishes, and new relationships begin. I pray that lessons are learned about choices and responsibility, kindness and service to others. God continues to offer grace.



Thank you to everyone who shared prayers and Christmas cards with me and my family. Thank you for generous and thoughtful gifts. It is such a joy to serve with you as we live our faith together. I pray your Christmas brought you deep joy and your New Year is filled with God's love and God's grace.

Pastor Cathy



Pastor Cathy will be on vacation from January 11-19.

We welcome Rev. Kim Krogstad to worship on January 16th. Rev. Krogstad is an ordained ELCA pastor serving as a chaplain at Fox Lake Correctional Facility. She will be preaching about the continued journey toward equality, in honor of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Rev. Chuck Davis will be available for pastoral care emergencies.



INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

Welcome to January, the month for staying inside where it's warm and cozy. Now is the time for reading and UMW wants to share their new book list with you.

Christmas resources will be replaced by mid-January, so if a favorite is still on display, please take this opportunity to check them out. Otherwise, please return any resources you still have at home.

CHILDREN:

- Usually after Christmas you begin to learn more about Jesus. One book that you can read is ***Jesus, God's Son, Savior, Lord.*** You can find it in the children's section by looking for this information on the spine of the book. (BibL Cha) in the 232.9 area. That is the number of books about Jesus.
- What happens at your table when you are eating? Is everyone burying their noses in a laptop, phone or game? Ella noticed that scene at her table. She remembered how things used to be so she took action. Discover how she encouraged a change. (J Fic PED). The book's name is ***Unplugged***, by Laura Pederson.
- Do you have a sister or a brother? Perhaps you have had some of the same feelings as told in this book. ***The Pain and the Great One***, by Judy Blume (J Fic Blu).

- Sometimes people in the family get very sick. This is true for Fritzzy's mother. Something she had said made Fritzzy think she needed a special hat, so he decided to find one. ***Fritzzy Finds a Hat***, by Scott Hamilton (J Fic Ham)
- *When God Made the World* is the perfect picture book to read to children. It is a creations story but goes beyond the usual items and includes science.

ADULTS:

- ***Separated at the Border***, by Gena Thomas, is a different kind of immigration story. The author is a foster mother for Julia, age 5, who arrives in the U.S. alone because her mother is kept by the coyote. The mother escapes and returns to her home in Guatemala. The different agencies connect the mother and foster mother. The author and her husband take Julia home and experience life in this troubled country. The author's real-life experiences detail every step of this journey from despair to hope. She also discusses why Christians should care. This book is in the Social Action (SA) section.
- ***A Brave Face***, by Barbara Marlowe, is an inspirational story. The author sees a newspaper story about Teeba Furat who was burned by a car bomb in Iraq when she was about 2. Mrs.

Marlowe can't forget the picture of a little girl whose head and hands are covered with scars. She is determined to bring Teeba to the U.S. for surgery. She obviously has courage and money; it was not easy. Over many years, Teeba receives 21 surgeries in a children's hospital in northeast Ohio. It tells of two mothers, one in Iraq and one in Ohio, who love and share one girl. Teeba is still in the U.S. where she hopes to become a pediatric anesthesiologist. The book is in the Nurturing for Community (NC) section.

Happy reading!

— Jan Nash and Rachel Benton
(920-231-7724)



Successful Cookie Walk!

The United Methodist Women's Cookie Walk was a great success!! We

are very grateful to everyone for their generous contributions; this does not happen without you and all of the ways you give your support. It was so nice to see people enjoying our building and time with each other.

Special thanks to Valois Brothers and Deb Madel for "decking the halls" beautifully both inside and out. Thanks to Jaye Alderson for the wonderful coverage promoting the sale. Thanks to Pastor Cathy, Lisa Marie and the staff

for all the support you gave. Finally, we'd like to thank everyone for their prayers and moral support. Because of the weather, this was a Cookie Walk like none before, and one that will not be easily forgotten!

Our next UMW meeting will be on Jan. 17, 2021. As always, every woman in our church is welcome to attend the meetings and this evening is one to circle on your calendar. Please consider joining us at 6:30 p.m.

— Sandy Butcher

THE TEACHERS CLOSET

Help Provide Teachers
With Supplies

The Teachers Closet is housed at Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W. Ninth Ave., to make educational supplies available to teachers in nonprofit schools.

An upcoming donation day will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 22. Gently used games, hats, mittens, puzzles as well as classroom items are suggested and needed. Donations of money are used to purchase additional supplies.

To donate items on that day, drive in from Ninth Avenue into the circular driveway.

The Teachers Closet is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3-5:30 p.m. for any teacher from Oshkosh area nonprofit schools. They can pick up classroom supplies and supplies needed by low-income students who may not be able to afford them.

Warming Shelter Meal

Our church is privileged to have the opportunity to cook and serve a hot, filling meal on Thursday, Jan. 27, at the Day By Day Warming Shelter. We are looking for a handful of people to have some fun making the meal in the church kitchen on Wednesday, Jan. 26, from 4-5:30 p.m. and another crew of 4-6 people to serve the meal at the shelter from 5:45-7:30 p.m. on the 27th. If you've never participated in feeding the homeless of Oshkosh or been in the Day By Day Warming shelter, now is your chance. The shelter is open from October through April and has the capacity to house and feed 25 individuals per evening. Sadly, it is not uncommon for some to be turned away. The shelter is working on a plan to open a year-round facility that will be capable of housing a greater number of our homeless neighbors. Please reach out to Lisa-Marie with your willingness to join in this outreach. connections@abumc.org or 231-2800, ext. 5



SAY WHAT?!?

Pizzas Are Back!

It's been a long dry spell, but the homemade pizzas you love and miss will be available to you again! We will be taking orders for our tasty creations between worship services Jan. 9 and 16. You also may place an order by contacting Lisa-Marie via phone, 231-2800, ext 5, or at connections@abumc.org. Because of supply shortages & delays, no orders can be accepted after Jan. 16. Pizzas will be lovingly made by hand and ready for pickup on Feb. 5. Proceeds from the pizza sale will help offset the cost of the Sager Brown mission trip in March!



Pizza topping options: cheese, sausage, pepperoni, or sausage & pepperoni. \$7.50 each or 3/\$21.

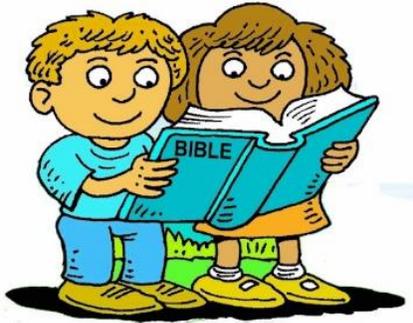
Oh, the Joy!

There is a great deal of need during the holidays and our congregation came through wonderfully in a variety of ways. We were able to pack 92 gift boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and we provided 62 gifts for Angel Tree so that 31 children of incarcerated parents could have two gifts each. We continued the monthly mission of cooking and serving a nutritious free meal from our church for members of our community, we prepared and served a meal at the Day By Day Warming Shelter, and the United Methodist Women sold almost 150 boxes of homemade cookies to support their missions. Thank you for your part in spreading joy this Christmas season!



Looking Ahead In Faith Factory

We spent the fall diving into some great Old Testament stories in Faith Factory Sunday School: Abraham & Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Ruth. And, of course, we revisited the birth of our Savior in December! We played games, we watched movies in our theater, we baked in the kitchen, and we created masterpieces in the art room, all to reinforce what we'd learned. As we head into 2022 we are going to dig into some awesome New Testament stories about Jesus and his teachings and miracles. We're also going to explore just how the Bible is put together and better understand how to navigate it's amazing story!



The Wrapping Wonder!

Have you ever pondered who wraps all those shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child? Would you believe that it is just **one** person? **Every** year? We are eternally grateful for the Wrapping Wonder, Barb Diener-Blumer! We usually pack around 100 boxes each year and Barb begins taking shoeboxes home in the fall to wrap them expertly and beautifully for this mission (including the tricky hinged-lid kind!). Thank you, Barb, for your talent and generosity of time!



KROGER PACKAGING TerraCycle Recycling Program

Remember to collect your Kroger brand packaging from Pick 'n Save & bring it to church to be recycled! We are part of the TerraCycle recycling program and receive points toward charitable donations with every shipment we send. The receptacle is in the missions area in the hallway.



Around the Church

2022 Calendars Wanted

Do you get extra calendars mailed to you?

Inmates at the Oshkosh Correctional Institution could use them and St. Andrews Church is gathering them.

Bring extra calendars you have to church and place them in the missions bin, and they will be delivered to St. Andrew's.

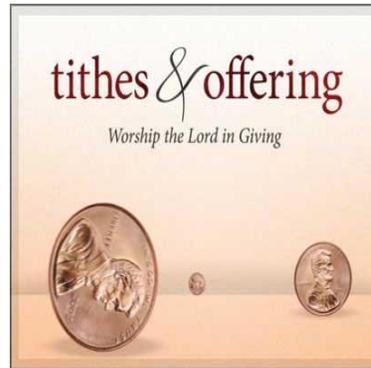
SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- Informal worship at 9 a.m.
- Online worship on Facebook Live! at 10 a.m.
- Traditional in-person worship at 10:30 a.m.

Children are welcome and wanted in worship. As a church family, we love the wiggles and noises they bring, and we celebrate them as a gift from God.

abumc.org

Find us online at abumc.org for events, announcements, and other information. We are also on FACEBOOK as Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church



Online Giving is available through a link on our website at abumc.org.

If you need help, contact the church office.



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

