

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 January 2023

Happy New Year!

January Coins

Check the couch and recliner for loose coins! We're supporting a local organization this month when we drop our coins in the offering basket. Rebuilding Together Fox Valley is a nonprofit organization that makes critical repairs at no charge for low-income homeowners. Their volunteers make homes safe and healthy, and they help individuals age in place. RTFV gives special priority to older adults, people living with disabilities, families with children and veterans.

In Fiscal Year 2021, Rebuilding Together Fox Valley:

- Received 2,024 hours of donated labor by 458 volunteers
- Provided 788 repairs and modifications in 75 homes impacting 136 individuals
- Delivered more than \$195,000 in market valued labor and contract services

Here are a few pics of ABUMC members volunteering with Rebuilding Together Fox Valley.





Dear Church Family and Friends,
I am filled with such gratitude as we enter into this new year. I daily offer prayers of thanksgiving and joy as I think of you and pray for each of you.

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church is filled with many faithful and vibrant volunteers. Our work of loving God and loving our neighbors is growing in beautiful ways. The Holy Spirit is moving and people are responding. Praise God!

For the many people who helped lead and do the work of the Capital Campaign, I am grateful. Our estimates total \$460,926! Your generous commitments have ensured that the Trustees can begin the work planned for the building. These projects help us continue to expand our impact in this community as we share our space and share God's love.

For people who have done work with outreach ministries - meals, Read School programs, and so many more, I am grateful. The joy of voices filling Paine Hall and other rooms around the building is life giving.

For the many ways people are giving their time, responding to God's call in their lives, sharing resources, and growing in faith... I am without words. God is so good!

I am grateful for our incredible staff. We have a faithful and committed group of people who are actively engaging the work of ministry. They are hard working, compassionate, funny, faithful, and wildly creative. If you haven't thanked them recently, please do! We couldn't do it without them.

I had foot surgery on December 21st. In addition to all of the work the staff did to pull things together, I also want to mention all of the people who volunteered to lead and read on Christmas Eve when I couldn't be there. To Pastor Mike, Lisa-Marie and Craig along with our 12 scripture readers, I'm grateful. For our many ushers, musicians, and tech people running and hosting online worship, your time and talents are such a gift.

Thanks to Deb M. who decorated the sanctuary this year and for all of the people who donated antique toys so we could put ourselves in the late 1800's when the story of Ebenezer Scrooge was told and when our church began.



A personal word of thanks to the many of you who sent cards and gifts and a big shout out to the meal ministry volunteers that delivered 2 meals to my house in the days right after surgery. You are all such a gift in my life.

My new year begins in deep prayer and gratitude. How will yours begin?

With Hope, Peace, Joy and Love,
Pastor Cathy

Evergreen Needs You!

Evergreen Needs You!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Evergreen Retirement Community is in need of a few angels. They are looking for some transport volunteers. These angels would assist residents who are in wheelchairs to the Catholic Liturgy of the Word at 10 a.m. Wednesdays and return them to their rooms afterward. This would be approximately a 1½-hour time commitment.

Another opportunity is assisting residents with transport to the fitness center from 9:15 to 11 a.m. Thursdays.

Additionally, they are in need of volunteers who would be willing to do activities with their Creekview residents once a week, such as playing bingo or other games. The best time for this is weekday mornings at 10:30 (except Thursdays).

Do you have a couple of hours a week to show some love to Evergreen residents? Reach out to Lisa-Marie with your availability.

You Are AWESOME!!!

Throughout 2021, our friends at ABUMC have been rock stars! Whether you have given of your time to cook or serve a meal, supervise rambunctious kids, clear fallen tree branches, wash dishes, spread mulch, bake cookies, haul away cardboard, sort rummage, give trishaw rides, hand out candy, sit on a committee, ring a bell, share musical gifts, help at Read School, or any other multitude of ways, your commitment is incredible. Whether you've donated a child's Christmas gift, money, school clothes, treats for teachers, a college care package, a gift for a hospitalized child, or snacks, your generosity is amazing. Thank you for your time, talents, prayers, and benevolence. We couldn't do all the important work to fulfill Christ's mission without you.

Heartfelt 
THANKS
TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

United Women in Faith



December Cookie Walk

The United Women in Faith held our annual Cookie Walk Dec. 10 in Paine Hall. Our unit members and friends, along with church members, were busy baking to provide a wonderful variety of goodies.

Grateful for just a “dusting of snow,” the sale opened with shoppers excited to see what homemade treats were being offered this year. We had a steady stream of buyers for the first two hours and continued to see people right up until the 1 p.m. sale end.

We boxed up what remained and offered packages for sale to church members on Sunday, Dec. 11.

We are happy to report that approximately \$1,300 was raised during the sale.

Thanks to all who helped this year! We appreciate each and every one of you for your support. This is our major fundraiser for the year which allows us to support missions for women, children, and youths around the world.

Reading Program

At our November meeting, Jan Nash shared the new books for 2023. Books are added once a year and any books from the 2018 list onward can be credited through Dec. 31, 2023.

Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth are the five categories in the program. The Reading Program features a selection of books curated for all ages.

The other component of the program is reading the Response magazine. This is the official magazine of United Women in Faith. In 1990, Response magazine began to feature a page in Korean and a page in Spanish. Nilda Ferrari was the Spanish editor then and has been for 30 years until her retirement this year.

I encourage you to grab a Response magazine from the Open-Door Library. The November/December 2022 issue has a 10-page article beginning on page 26 beautifully displaying the 2023 Reading Program additions. To learn more about Nilda and her inclusivity work with the United Women in Faith since 1985, turn to page 38.

2023

Like most years, 2022 has been a year of change. The United Methodist Women became the United Women in Faith. We are slowly realizing what that means for us, and we are excited!! We are reaching out to women in our church and in our community to explore this “new” sisterhood.

We will continue to put our faith and love in to action, and in the process, we are reminded of our powerful sisterhood and all we can do with these new possibilities in the year ahead.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2023, at 1 p.m. All women are welcome!

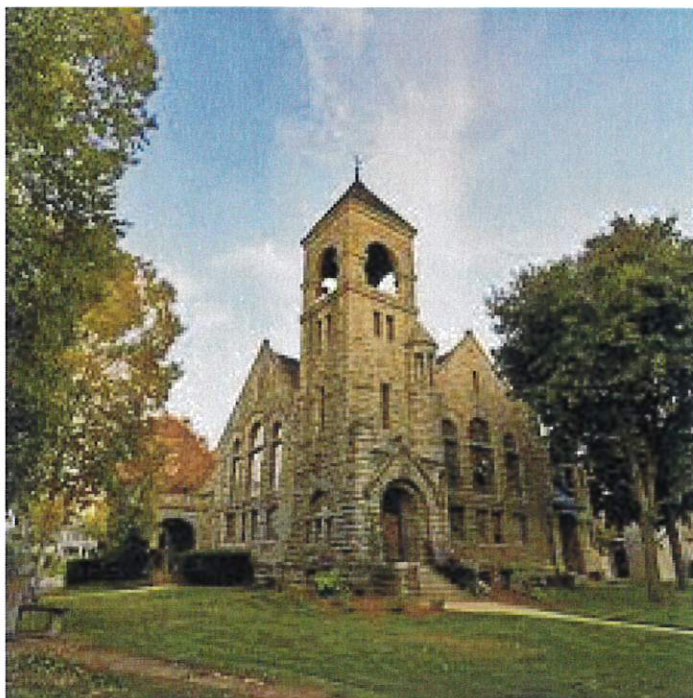


Cookie Walk 2022



Major Edward Latham Paine and Eleanor Ross Paine

The following is an excerpt from "Looking Back at the History of Algoma Street Church," by Kate Yarbro. The soon-to-be-published book contains this brief history of Edward L. Paine and his role in establishing the Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church. Our congregation began in Oshkosh by meeting in people's homes, then moved to a building on Punhoqua Street, then to a room on the campus of the Paine Lumber Company, and finally to the corner of Algoma Boulevard and New York Avenue. The stone church that now stands on the site was built in 1892, one year before Edward died. Edward L. Paine was on the building committee for that building.



If there were only one person who could be singled out as the founder of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church in Oshkosh, it might be Major Edward Latham Paine. He was one of Oshkosh's most successful early lumbermen between 1855 and 1870. But more importantly for our church, he was a deeply religious man.

Edward recalled the religious services held in a log cabin by his father, the Rev. Edward Paine, a Methodist minister, when they lived in Pennsylvania. In his autobiography, he said, "I remember Bishop Asbury (the first Methodist bishop in the United States) who preached a rousing sermon that was responded to with shouts and amens of the heartiest kind. I took stock in that little company of Methodists that used to meet in that wild region over eighty years ago. I laid it away in my heart." Most of what we know about him is found in the *Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Souvenir* booklet published in 1897.

On June 15, 1893, the *Oshkosh Weekly Northwestern* noted that Edward's father died, leaving 18-year-old Edward as the sole support of his invalid mother. He worked as a clerk and taught school. He organized an independent artillery company in Pennsylvania and acquired the title of major followed him throughout his life. Edward organized Sabbath schools wherever he lived.

In 1824, he married Eleanor Ross, a devout woman who strove in every way to assist him in the work of the church. As a child, she had attended church and faithfully adhered to Christian principles. In 1855, Edward and Eleanor and their five children moved to Wisconsin. Edward and his sons dismantled the mill he had established in New York State and rebuilt it in Oshkosh as the Paine Lumber Company. The site Edward chose for his mill was on the eastern bank of the Fox River, at today's Congress Street.

The Paine family joined First Methodist Episcopal Church (now First United Methodist) and remained members for almost 20 years. Edward and Eleanor were key members who helped build up and strengthen the church with their dedicated work and hefty donations. When Edward retired in 1870, he turned all his energy to the church. He convinced

several clergy members to preach at the Punhoqua Street Sabbath School, which eventually became the Algoma Boulevard Methodist Church.

They were honored members and firm supporters of the Algoma Street church and both were very helpful in its benevolent and charitable work. Eleanor was a charter member of the Women's Home Missionary Society.

Eleanor died in 1891 when she and Edward had been married for 67 years. Edward died in 1893, at age 92.

Just before Edward died, he wrote in his autobiography, "The Algoma Street Church has been my home; upon its altar my best efforts have been laid; around its interests my affections have clustered; and for its prosperity my devout aspirations have ascended to our Father above."

