



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 2023



For Pastor Ellen, It's All a God Thing

Psalm 91 4 *He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*

We give thanks to Cindy Overton for her interview with Pastor Ellen. Excerpts follow.

Her life didn't turn out anything like she planned, but Pastor Ellen Rasmussen has ended up right where she needs to be. "I never had a clue I would be a pastor," she says. "It was a God thing. I just kept saying yes to God."

A Navy brat, Pastor Ellen was born on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. She is a graduate of Wisconsin Dells High School and an alum of University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, where she majored in English and communication arts with a minor in business administration.

Upon graduation from UW-EC, she was certified to teach English and speech in grades 7 through 12 but ended up pursuing a business and sales career first. It wasn't until after her divorce that she began her teaching career in addition to sales. It was after her parents' deaths that Pastor Ellen came to be a woman of faith.

On July 19, 1997, fourteen months after it had been predicted by a military chaplain and what would have been her mother's 62nd birthday, Pastor Ellen met God in a moment and suddenly believed that God was real, Jesus Christ was real, and she was invited to "Come." The rest they say is history. *To learn more of her conversion story, check out the worship videos for July 16 and 23.*

She began working for the church as the Director of Christian Nurture and Family Ministries at Covenant UMC in Fond du Lac. She has served in churches in North Fond du Lac/Salem, Kenosha, Rhinelander and La Crosse, and most recently at Brown Deer and Redeemer Hmong United Methodist Churches. She has served as the chair of the Board of Church & Society, the Disaster Response Coordinator, Spiritual & Emotional Care Coordinator and on the Conference Council on Youth Ministries

for the Wisconsin Annual Conference. She has also served on the Peace and Justice Commission for the Wisconsin Council of Churches, as well as Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice. She currently serves on the board of directors for United Methodist Childrens Services including two years as president.

In addition to her faith life, her family life is critically important to her. She has raised her children, Erika and Joe, as a single mother since they were 5 and 3, respectively.

Of all the titles she has held, Gram E is her favorite. She loves being Gram E to her grandchildren, Abby, 6, and Joseph, 2, who belongs to son Joe and his wife Corissa, in Appleton; and Evelyn, 2, who belongs to daughter Erika, and her husband, TJ in Racine.

She enjoys cooking, especially meals free of major allergens, crocheting, playing bridge, supporting the Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks, Lakeshore Chinooks and the Green Bay Packers, and reading.

She most wants people to understand that “they are loved beyond measure for who they are and for who they will be,” she says. “We are all created in the images of the sacredness and the holy. The sacredness is at our core.”

Pastor Ellen feels blessed to have experienced God’s incredible grace, love, and healing. She is thankful for new life and the opportunities to begin anew.

Meet Ellen’s Family



Pastor Ellen visits with her daughter, Erika, and granddaughter, Evelyn.



A family vacation in Michigan in October 2021: Corissa and Joe, left, with Abby and Joseph; and Erika and TJ, right, with Evelyn.



At the baptism of her grandson, Joseph, along with her children and their families, and her ex-husband and his wife.

Welcome

TerraCycle Recycling Update

A couple of years ago, ABUMC decided to partner with TerraCycle to recycle oral care items, which are not otherwise recyclable here in Oshkosh. We placed a receptacle outside the church door and have been collecting toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, and dental floss containers. So far we've made two shipments through TerraCycle that weighed a total of almost 23 pounds.

About TerraCycle

Overconsumption and a throwaway culture have led to a global waste crisis. While even complex trash is technically recyclable, most materials are not profitable to recycle. As a result, waste piles up in landfills and pollutes our planet while virgin materials are extracted from the earth to create new products. At TerraCycle, our mission is Eliminating the Idea of Waste®. Businesses, government entities, and people like you work with us globally to keep trash out of landfills or from incineration. Through collaboration and innovation, we've developed the world's first solutions in everything from recycling to reuse. When ABUMC ships our oral care waste to TerraCycle we are awarded points that can be redeemed for donations to charities or programs. So far our points have been redeemed to directly support waste pickers collecting hard-to-recycle plastics in India, for the Earth Day

Network to plant ten trees in an area of the world in need of reforestation, and for the *Product Stewardship Network* to help reduce waste and save tax dollars.

Our Newest TerraCycle Program

ABUMC will now also be participating in the TerraCycle Solo Cup Free Recycling Program. All #6 rigid plastic cups will be collected for recycling, including cups from other manufacturers. Our local recycling facility, Tri-County Recycling, does not currently recycle #6 rigid plastic cups. We always encourage you to avoid single-use plastic, but if you do use these cups for a get-together, please bring them to the ABUMC plastic cup recycle receptacle.

And don't forget! We have a third TerraCycle recycling project, the collection of Kroger (Pick 'n Save) plastic food bags from their own brands which include Private Selection, Kroger, and Simple Truth. We can recycle plastic packaging from frozen vegetables and fruit, nuts, bacon, chips, cookies, etc. The receptacle for the Kroger plastic bags is on top of the shelf in the missions area.





Pedal Out Hunger

The annual fundraiser for the Oshkosh Salvation Army, **Pedal Out Hunger**, is coming up Saturday, August 12th, and you are invited to join **the ABUMC team!** All ages are welcome. ABUMC is a sponsor of the ride so our teammates will not pay the registration fee. We will be biking on a beautiful 10-mile route. The Salvation Army makes thousands of hot meals annually for those in need. Nearly one in ten Oshkosh households also utilize The Salvation Army food pantry each year for food assistance. All proceeds from the annual ride go to fund food and equipment purchases for pantry and kitchen operations. Our participation in the event helps feed those in need.

There will be a group start at 10am led out by the Oshkosh Police Department. A free post-ride lunch will be served from 11am until 12:30pm in the Salvation Army cafeteria and all riders get a tee shirt. **Come join the ABUMC team as we Pedal Out Hunger!** You must register with Lisa-Marie prior to the event.

Read Elementary Playground:

The Women's Build

Check it out, ABUMC ladies! We have the opportunity to take part in the Read Elementary Playground Platoon: The Women's Build event sponsored by the Women's Fund of the Oshkosh Area Community Foundation. On Tuesday, August 15th from 8:45-noon we can help with a variety of volunteer projects with other women in the community who want to make a difference for our friends at Read Elementary School. Some of the projects include: • Painting the driveway to look like a Candy Land game • Gardening & landscaping • Spray painting bike racks • Making welcome packets for students & staff • Painting inside the school • Installing Pop-Its in the school fence

Water, iced coffee, and lemonade will be available with a donation. Proceeds will help fund the new playground. Help us continue to show our love and support for our next-door neighbors! Sign up [here](#).



August Coins

The combined effects of the war in Ukraine and other conflicts, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic have pushed the world into an unprecedented food and nutrition crisis. Many of the worst affected areas are in the Horn of Africa. There are an estimated 8,000,000 children suffering from severe wasting. UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) works with partners to deliver humanitarian assistance, screening and treating children suffering from malnutrition and supplying safe water, sanitation and hygiene services to communities where these basic resources are in short supply. They supply Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food, a treatment for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition. The coins we contribute to the offering basket during the month of August will go to the UNICEF No Time To Waste campaign which aims to accelerate their response to support children in the worst affected areas. If you are so moved, additional donations may be made by using the offering envelope, submitting a check to the church, or via your online giving. Please be sure to indicate it is for UNICEF-August coins.



They're Baaaaaack!

Who Wants PIZZA?!? The ABUMC Connections Team will be selling those delicious handmade pizzas you've been waiting for! Watch for your opportunity to order in September and get ready to stock up your freezer! Proceeds from the pizza sale will help fund ABUMC outreach programs and events.



Old Greeting Card Request

Do you have any old greeting cards? We are collecting them for a bookmark project. Please place them in the mission bins in the front hallway.

What's Up in Worship

August 2023

Sunday, August 6, 2023 @ 9:00 & 10:30 am

The Power of God ~ Be Transformed
Philippians 4:4-9
Communion Sunday

Sunday, August 13, 2023 @ 9 & 10:30 am

New Occasional Series Inspired by YOU!
"A Few of My Favorite Things"
"I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
Philippians 4:13

Sunday, August 20, 2023 @ 9:00 am



Bluegrass Worship

With

BUCKBOARD TRUCKERS

The Buckboard truckers are a Bluegrass/folk influenced acoustic group from Princeton, WI.

Sunday, August 20, 2023 @ 10:30 am

Series Inspired by YOU!
"A Few of My Favorite Things"
"Soaring like the eagles."
Isaiah 40:31

Sunday, August 27, 2023 @ 9 & 10:30 am

Series Inspired by YOU!
"A Few of My Favorite Things"
"Be Still and Know"
Psalm 46

Looking ahead for Labor Day Weekend, "Labor in the Pulpit 2023"