



# 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.org ..... June 2023



## **Pastor Cathy's Last Sunday in Worship Sunday, June 18th One Service at 10:00 a.m.**

We will celebrate together at 10:00 am and share food and fellowship in Paine Hall after the service. Join us as we bid Pastor Cathy Weigand a fond farewell and thank her for her years of serving as our pastor.

## **Pastor Ellen's First Sunday in Worship Sunday, July 16th**

Please be sure to join us in worship to warmly welcome  
**Pastor Ellen Rasmussen!**

Members of the Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) will be inviting everyone to small group gatherings to get to know Pastor Ellen. Gatherings start in August. Please make sure to wear a name tag in worship to help her get to know who you are!





Dear Church Family and Friends,  
 My office is a little more than halfway packed, the house is getting closer to ready (which also means a challenge to live in). Our moving truck arrives June 14th and they'll unload us in Madison on the 15th. I'll be driving back up on the 17th so that I can be in worship with you one last time on June 18th.

How has the time gone so quickly? Sometimes it feels like a blink of an eye, sometimes it seems like I've been here forever.

Leaving is hard. It always is... I've loved being in ministry and working side by side with you.

We've gotten to do a lot of great things together and I will be forever grateful for the many people - leaders, volunteers, pray-ers, visionaries, and disciples of Jesus that I've gotten to know so well. Together we have explored faith and God's call in our own lives, and where the fire of the Holy Spirit has taken us together as a community of faith.

We've done a few mission trips and even got caught in a Mardi Gras parade during one of them. We've reached out to our neighborhood and have connected with the neighborhood association, families, students, and neighbors who needed a place to park when Algoma Blvd was under construction for so long. We retired some debt. (I packed my inflatable dinosaur costume the other day.) I'm sure we all have different memories that stand out from the past 9 years.

As we have listened together for God's call, we have become more bold about taking steps to live out all that God knows that we can be. I am grateful to know that Pastor Ellen will continue to challenge you to grow and live deeply as disciples of Jesus Christ.

On June 18th, during my last worship service there is a liturgy of saying goodbye. There are some important words in it, and while I'll save some for that day, I wanted to share a few with you.

*I thank you for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for the mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.*

*I trust that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.*

*I release you from turning to me and depending on me. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for each of you and for Pastor Ellen.*

I will miss you.

With Gratitude,

*Pastor Cathy*

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Thanks to our retired pastors for covering worship and pastoral care from June 18 to July 9th. The spirit-filled support and care you give to this congregation is appreciated!

Rev. Chuck Davis  
 Rev. Jack Stubbs  
 Rev. Keith Wolf  
 Rev. Barry Yarbro

**If there are any emergencies between June 18 and July 9:**

\* call the church office 920-231-2800 or  
 \* email [admin@abumc.org](mailto:admin@abumc.org)

**Office staff will contact a pastor to check in with you.**



## 6K for Water

Our team, Oshkosh Water Warriors, raised over \$2,300 for World Vision during the annual 6K for Water, May 20<sup>th</sup>. We walked 3.7 miles (6K) on a beautiful day to raise money to bring fresh, safe, clean water to families. Thanks to all participants and all who supported us! God is good!



## A Crossing Guard Thank-You

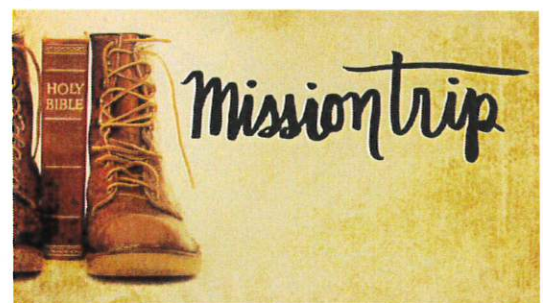
Our ABUMC Connections Team put together gift bags with treats and a note to thank the crossing guards who keep our Oshkosh school kids safe. Through all kinds of weather and often with little It was fun for the team to zip around town on May 24<sup>th</sup> and hand-deliver a simple gift to show our gratitude. The Read School crossing guard stopped in the office to say how grateful he was for our recognition.



## And They're Off!

The youth mission trip group will head to South Dakota Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and will return the 17<sup>th</sup>. Join us as we pray throughout the week for their safety, for the energy to work hard for the Lakota people they will serve, and for a powerful and rewarding experience.

Thank you for your support of our youth. The dinner and auction to raise funds for this experience brought in over \$7,600! Your generosity, prayers, and support is outstanding.





## Christmas in June!

Each year we are invited to donate Christmas gifts for the patients of Winnebago Mental Health Institute. Because we're already involved in Operation Christmas Child and Angel Tree at Christmastime, we haven't taken part. This year we've decided to celebrate Christmas in June! We are taking a collection of items during June that we'll deliver to WMHI in December! Please consider taking part in this outreach and drop off your gifts in the church missions bins during June. Thank you!

**Following is a list of suggestions for the patients:**

<i>Chocolate bars (w/o nuts)</i>	<i>Body Wash</i>
<i>Shampoo</i>	<i>Deodorant</i>
<i>Lotion</i>	<i>Journals (w/o wire)</i>
<i>Ankle Socks</i>	<i>Stamps</i>
<i>Stuffed Animals</i>	<i>Mens &amp; Womens</i>
<i>Tennis Shoes</i>	
<i>Puzzles (100-350 pieces)</i>	<i>Playing Cards</i>
<i>Gift cards for: Walmart, Kohl's, Target, fast food, Kwik Trip</i>	



## Our Recycling Program

At ABUMC we are dedicated to caring for the world God has gifted us. In keeping with that commitment, we have developed a church recycling program to encourage everyone to better understand how we can care for our planet both here and at home. It is our intention and hope that all who use our building, including staff, church members, and guests will participate in our recycling endeavors. We have a variety of receptacles in the kitchen for the types of items we will be recycling. Please take time to become familiar with everything we would like to keep out of the landfill.

### Single-Stream Recycling

Tin, aluminum, plastic bottles, jars, jugs, deli and bakery containers, glass food and beverage bottles and jars (all rinsed out)

### Plastic Bag Recycling

Clean grocery bags, bags for in-store recycling such as zip-top and food product bags marked as recyclable (look for the recycle symbol!)

### Paper Recycling

Paper, envelopes, cardboard, newspapers, programs, milk and soup cartons (rinsed), paper egg cartons

**Not sure what you can or cannot recycle? Ask Lisa-Marie or Nancy Levesque! 😊**

Thank you for your participation in our recycling program and our commitment to God's creation!



## Bike Ride

Bring your bike to church and join us for a bike ride after 9 a.m. worship on June 4 (weather permitting). We'll ride from church at 10:15 for about 8.5 miles roundtrip on the WIOBASH Trail.

Always awesome to get out and enjoy the great outdoors together and get a little exercise, too!

Don't forget your helmet and a water bottle.



## Farewell and Best Wishes, Pastor Cathy

It has been almost nine years since we were introduced to Pastor Cathy Weigand, along with her husband, Mike, and their four kids. Now, it is time for us to say goodbye and wish them the best in their new appointments. Throughout her time at ABUMC, Pastor Cathy has worked tirelessly for our congregation. She has shared her passion for social justice and for spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The pandemic challenged us in ways we could never have imagined, and Pastor Cathy went above and beyond to keep us safe and engaged, even standing outside in 8-degree weather preaching two services on Christmas Eve! We are so grateful and blessed for Pastor Cathy's leadership. Sunday, June 18th will be her last day with us. Please join us for one worship service with Cathy at **10 a.m. on June 18th**. Afterward, we will enjoy a get-together in Paine Hall, sharing food, stories, and farewells.

YOU  
Will Be  
Missed



## Wisconsin Conference Disaffiliation Update

The 2019 Special General Conference established a limited window of opportunity, expiring December 31, 2023, for local churches to depart The United Methodist Church “over issues related to human sexuality.”

Forty-four congregations in the Wisconsin Conference continue in the process following a required period of discernment and Church Conference vote, where the professing members present supported the disaffiliation motion by at least a 2/3 majority.

Varying in size, the congregations are in four of the five districts, with no disaffiliation requests from the Northwest District. Approximately half are congregations reporting 55 or fewer members. These 44 local churches remain from the 75 who had initially expressed interest in learning more about disaffiliation.

A 17-step process has been followed in Wisconsin. After all steps have been fulfilled by the individual churches in the prescribed time line, obligations met, and payments have been received, the churches will be voted on at the Annual Conference, June 9-12, 2023.

The process approved at the 2022 Annual Conference session is available at <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/files/documents/annual+conference/2022+action+item+wc111-disaffiliation-approved-s.pdf>

Additional information remains available on the Wisconsin Conference web site. <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/disaffiliation-information>

If a local church does not fulfill all the prerequisites by December 31, 2023, their disaffiliation will be null and void and the church will remain United Methodist.

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## Questions about ABUMC and Disaffiliation

### What would it mean to disaffiliate?

Disaffiliation is the process by which churches who can no longer spiritually, theologically or structurally continue to reside within the greater United Methodist Church connection, have the opportunity to leave.

Disaffiliation of an entire church, with its buildings and resources, has not been available to churches in the UMC. However, after the 2019 General Conference that took up issues of the ordination of LGBTQ+ individuals and same-gender weddings, there was a call for the ability to leave the denomination.

To do so, the process requires, at a minimum, three things:

- a decision to disaffiliate by a two-thirds majority of the professing members present at a church conference (not charge conference);
- the payment in full of two years of that congregation’s apportionment commitment as set by the conference;
- the payment in full of the congregation’s pro-rata share of the conference’s pension liability, based on a formula approved by the annual conference.

### How did ABUMC arrive at its decision not to pursue disaffiliation?

The Administrative Council, which is the governing/leadership board of ABUMC met and discussed the information regarding disaffiliation. After considering all of the information and implications, and having further conversations, the team decided that our way forward was with the UMC.

As a Reconciling Congregation we remain committed to including all people in leadership, ordination, weddings, and all parts of church life. We continue to seek changes to church law in order to fully embrace the LGBTQ+ community.