

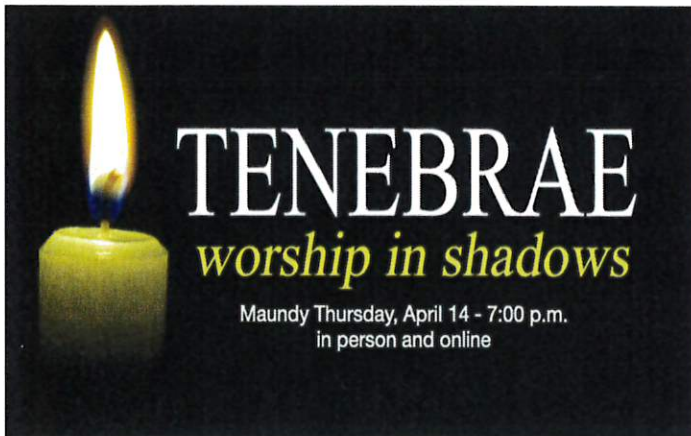


# ALGOMA BOULEVARD UNITED • METHODIST • CHURCH

**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 ..... April 2022*

## *Around the Church*



### Groceries? Gas Cards?

### Gift Ideas?

If you would like to order any gift cards from the SCRIP program, Anne Fields will be placing an order on **April 3** with **delivery on Sunday, April 10th.**

Send your order details and check (made out to **ABUMC**) to:

Anne Fields  
1675 Deerfield Dr.  
Oshkosh, WI 54904

### Update from the Finance Committee

God is so good! Our calendar year 2021 financial statements were completed recently. They showed – instead of the budgeted deficit of \$33,000 – a real surplus of \$6,600 for the year.

Thank you to all who gave so generously to ensure that we can keep growing our mission work.

We now also have January results, showing a good start to this year. Contributions were \$2,300 more than our expenses, and considerably better than expected. Thank you!

For at least the past decade, our congregation has fallen short of paying our full apportionment to the larger UM church through the Wisconsin Conference. The good news is that we have been working our way back up to our past full apportionment giving. Last year, we paid 57% of what was asked, and in 2022 we are budgeted to pay 60%. Please help us continue to build God's kingdom here with your ongoing prayerful support. — Andy Irvine, chairperson



Dear Church Friends and Family,

I'd love to introduce you to this year's confirmation class. Kellyn, Hannah, Henna, Garrett, Logan, Alex and Evan.

This is a fantastic group of young adults who have done a TON of work this year as they've learned about faith, partnered with their mentors, and worked to fulfill all of the requirements of confirmation during Covid. We've had to get creative a few times.

This picture was taken during the most anticipated class of the year - the building tour! We discussed church architecture, history, and symbols. We talked about the history of ABUMC and how it has changed over the past 150 years.

Then we explored every nook and cranny of the building. No door was left closed, no question left unanswered. We saw it all and had so much fun! We got a deeper appreciation for the history and the function of our church.

Confirmation Sunday is scheduled for April 24th. You won't want to miss celebrating with this class.

Pastor Cathy

## Special Fundraising Effort

The Mission of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church is to help people - all people - experience God.

As a family of faith we are committed to praying and living our way into how God is calling us to extend love and grace into the world.

In the past year, Lisa-Marie has taken on the role of Connections Coordinator. Her work focuses on outreach in our community and connecting our congregation with mission projects that have impact in our neighborhood and all over the world. We continue to do the work of sharing the Good News in life changing ways.

In order to keep expanding ministry in our community, it is necessary to have functional and welcoming space to be used to build God's kingdom, "on earth, as it is in heaven."

This congregation was started 150 years ago. It grew rapidly, and through the years, the building expanded multiple times.

As we plan to celebrate 150 years, we are also planning a special fundraising effort to care for deferred maintenance on the building so that all we've inherited continues to function well into the future.

Information on projects and projected costs are on the website, [www.abumc.org](http://www.abumc.org) along with results of the pre-campaign study, pictures of planned projects, and video tours. We are grateful for our partnership with the WI United Methodist Foundation, and Rev. Jason Mahnke.

We will continue to update next steps, information and progress.

**Please be praying.**

## Wednesday After School Program

Once a month, Lisa-Marie and a group of volunteers host an after school program for the kids at Read Elementary School. We have a great group of volunteers and a delightful bunch of kids.

The Wednesday After School Program in March was rough! There wasn't a full moon, nothing was obviously off, but the kids were having a hard day. By the time they all went home, the volunteers all seemed to be overwhelmed, exhausted, in need of a nap in a very quiet place.



## AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

I spent some time praying for the kids and the volunteers that day. The following is part of an email I sent to our volunteers.

*Dear Volunteers,  
First, thank you for showing up and giving kids a safe space to be with adults who are kind. Thank you for helping parents know their kids are okay for a few hours - hours that might not have been covered otherwise.*

*A shout out to the teachers next door who must have had a ridiculous Wednesday as well. Can you imagine them all slumping at their desks when the bell rang? Let's pray for them! Maybe we should leave notes of encouragement on their cars.*

*I think we've all experienced a kid or two who are having a rough day when they get to us, but yesterday was A LOT of kids with very big feelings, problems, and reactions.*

*At some points we were able to help. At other points, there didn't seem to be one thing that we could do.*

*And yet... each child was welcomed. Each child got to make and eat a snack. Each child had the opportunity to play and to discover.*

*As hard as yesterday may have felt, God's presence was there.*

*You showed up with God's love and grace. You brought salt and light. You may have impact in the life of a child that you will never know about.*

*Thank you for loving these kids - God's beloved children... even when they seem unlovable. It is holy work.*

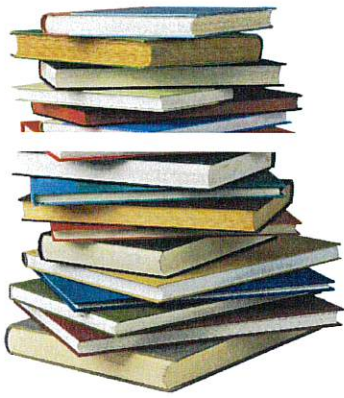
*I appreciate you,  
Pastor Cathy*

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### UW Oshkosh, LGBTQ+ Ally March April 12th, 5:00 p.m. Reeve Union

ABUMC hosting a table at Reeve before the march. We'll need help with set up, and people at the table to welcome and hand out little gifts. If you'd like to help, or make a donation, email Pastor Cathy.  
[pastor@abumc.org](mailto:pastor@abumc.org)





## INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

EASTER DAY will be here soon! I hope that you have had an opportunity to select a book that has helped you prepare for this thought inducing celebration of the Resurrection and how it has indwell your life.

- Now is the time to read *Easter Stories: Classic Tales for the Holy Season*, edited by C.S. Lewis and Tolstoy and others. (SG on UMW shelf). This book is not about eggs and bunnies. It is a collection of short stories for all ages and by many authors. The stories were selected for their spiritual value and literary quality. It's a perfect read-together-as-a-family or for reading aloud and discussion.
- Mitch Albom has written another thoughtful book, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* (Fic Alb). Ten people try to survive on a raft after the deadly explosion of a yacht. There are both crew members and rich, important people and then they rescue a stranger floating in the water. When someone said, "Thank the Lord we saw you," the stranger said, "I am the Lord."

Albom explores the subject of divine intervention and faith. There are mysteries, too, which the chief inspector of Montserrat must solve. He finds the raft on the beach with a watery notebook written by the narrator. Clues are given through chapters named News, Land and Sea.

What happened to the yacht? What happened to the people? Who was the stranger? If we call to God to help, will he come and will we accept him?

**CHILDREN:** How do you explain the real meaning of Easter to children? The book, **The Very First Easter** by **Paul L Maier (J232 Mai)** follows the questions of Chris about how differently Easter is celebrated. Unable to attend church his dad and mother answer his questions using short biblical selections from their Bible. Chris reads quotations in the Bible as his parents explain the answers to his questions. Page-sized illustrations are also helpful for understanding and the impetus for more questions.

A book children can read with you is **JESUS, GOD'S SON, SAVIOR, LORD** by **Eugene Chamberlain (232.9 Cha)** This book tells about the life of Jesus from birth through the resurrection. It could be used for family time during Holy Week. Children could help read the story.

Two others that relate to Easter are **The Thornbush** by **Michael Laughlin (JFic)** and **The Legend of the Easter Egg** (JF Wal) by **Lori Walburg**. These will be on display in the children's area with resources that were reviewed last month.

**ADULTS, YOUTH:** Jan has reviewed some other books, but one you may find interesting is **BENEATH THE CROSS** by **Patricia Pingry & Julie Hogan (232.96 Pin)** Chapters introduce you to people who have witnessed the crucifixion. Headings included are the Women, People who are mentioned in the telling of the event in the Bible and lastly the Apostles. Each person mentioned reflects on their own impression of what happened or their story is described. Would you take the place of Nicodemus or Mara?

*Happy Wishes for a Blessed Easter!*  
Jan Nash and Rachel Benton

## Contribute to Birthday Bags Project



Birthday Bags is a community service project to help families celebrate birthdays. Sunday school classes will package birthday bags with cake mix, frosting, candles, a card, paper plates and napkins. We package these bags for the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry for families to get a birthday cake for kids in need. We would like supplies for birthday bags by April 24. Sunday school students will be packaging on May 1. Ridgeway 4-H Club will be packaging extra supplies on June 14.

For donations, we will take cash and these items: cake mixes, frosting, candles, paper plates and napkins. Also, it costs \$5 to sponsor one bag. We are in most need of cake mixes and frosting. Birthday Bag items can be dropped off in the entryway at church through May 1. Monetary donations can be mailed to church. Please make checks payable to ABUMC and mark them Birthday Bags. Donations will also be collected at church between services in April.

— Written by Evan Numrich, eighth-grader and member of Ridgeway 4-H Club



## Summer Camp



The Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church has several amazing summer camp opportunities for various ages. Lake Lucerne and Pine Lake have beautiful facilities, awesome staff, and lots of great activities in store for campers this year. There are options for elementary, middle school, and high school kids as well as offerings for grandparent/grandchild, mother/daughter, families with young kids, and spectrum family camp for families with someone on the autism spectrum.

Check out the camp catalog at the bulletin board in the entryway or their [website](http://wiumcamps.org) at [wiumcamps.org](http://wiumcamps.org).



On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1869, eight women gathered at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in

Boston, Massachusetts, and organized the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. Those women collected pennies to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries. That society grew into the largest denominational organization for women.

During 2020 and 2021, more than \$9 million was allocated for U.S. and international mission. In the United States, Mission Giving provides vital support for national mission institutions and other U.S. ministries as well as spiritual growth programs, membership nurture, and opportunities for leadership development, mission education and service and advocacy. Around the world, Mission Giving supports 226 projects or people in 34 countries. Mission Giving also provides scholarships to 157 students enrolled in institutions of higher education in 24 countries. It provides support to eight regional missionaries.

In 2014, The Legacy Endowment Fund was created to ensure that ministry for women, children and youth would continue for the next 150 years. The proceeds will endow future core expenses so that even more Mission Giving dollars can go directly to support mission work throughout our country and the world.

In the more than 150 years of mission, our organization has had more than 25 names. On March 3, 2022, it was announced that while we will maintain the legal name of United Methodist Women we will operate under the new name of United Women in Faith. We remain the official women's organization of The United Methodist Church.

As United Women in Faith, we are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in Sisterhood with a focus on women, children and youth. We act for justice and transform communities. We invite United Methodist and other like-minded women to join us, because *love in action can change the world*.

(Data referenced from [Response](#), the magazine of women in mission, March/April 2022)



United  
Women  
in Faith



## 6K for Water

Last year ABUMC participated in our first 6K for Water. A group of 17, with the team name Oshkosh Water Warriors, joined thousands of people around the world to walk (or run) 6 kilometers to raise money to provide clean water to vulnerable people across the globe. Why a 6K? Because that is the average distance that women and children in the developing world need to walk to fetch water for their family. Often that water is dirty and unsafe to drink. We would love to double our number of participants this year on Saturday, May 21, as we walk 3.7 miles (6K) on the lovely WIOUWASH trail. You may still join our team and participate, even if you can't be with us in person. You can walk anywhere that works for you! We will meet at church at 9 a.m., head two blocks to the trail, and walk along the Fox River. Registration is \$50 for adults, \$25 for kids through age 18. Join our awesome team [here](#) or at [global6k.worldvision.org](http://global6k.worldvision.org). In recognition of World Water Day March 22, you may **use promo code WWD22 by April 10 to get \$15 off your registration!** Ask family and friends to support you and help us provide life-giving water.! Every human being should have access to clean water.

## Community Conversations



Our church, in partnership with ESTHER Oshkosh, is hosting a community

event. We would like to invite you to **Community Conversations: A Faithful Response to Housing Needs**. This event is being offered to allow faith community leaders and members to connect and learn more about how we can respond to housing needs in our community. We would love to have you join us.

- **When:** Monday, April 4, 2022  
6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
- **Where:** Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church
- **Why:** Many of our Oshkosh community members are struggling to find safe and affordable housing. Oshkosh is experiencing a rental vacancy rate of less than 2% (a healthy rate would be 5-7%), rental rates and home prices are skyrocketing, eviction moratoriums are ending, and homelessness is increasing. These challenges can be solved if we work together. Faith communities came together many years ago to start a warming shelter in Oshkosh. We can come together again to learn, share resources and take action.

# Earth Day

What a wonderful world it is! Thank you, God, for your amazing creation. Of course, we should care for the earth every single day, but there is one day a year, thanks to Gaylord Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, when special attention is brought to preserving the planet. Earth Day 2022 is Friday, April 22. In celebration of Earth Day, ABUMC will send out a team to pick up trash in our city. Will you join us? We'll meet at church at 4 p.m., head out to pick up litter and be back to church by 5:30. Wear comfy shoes that you don't mind getting dirty, bring work gloves, and a reusable water bottle. Garbage bags provided.

What other commitments can we make for Earth Day? Here are three to try: We can commit to using only reusable bags at the store and ditch the plastic bag habit. Get into the routine of drinking from a reusable water bottle and avoid purchasing bottled water. Stop leaving the car idling while we chit-chat (gas is too expensive anyway!). We can't make change if we don't try. *Every little bit counts.*



## **April Coin Mission**

When you toss your coins into the offering basket this month, you will be supporting the people of Ukraine, including those fleeing to other countries, through the UMCOR International Response and Recovery fund. Additional contributions may be made [online](https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450) at [umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450](https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450). 100% of contributions made through UMCOR reach the chosen mission.



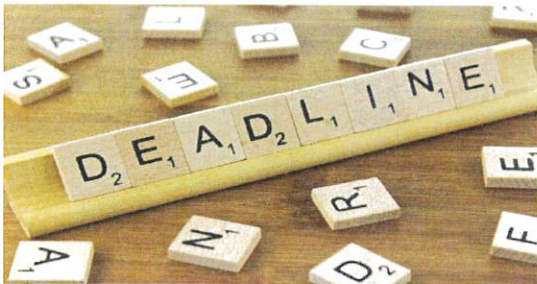


## Pizza Proceeds

Thanks to all who purchased pizzas to support the Sager Brown mission trip! We sold 325 pizzas and made a profit of \$1,348 to offset the cost of the trip. Sadly, the trip was cancelled due to the uncertainties of COVID at the time, but we plan to reschedule for next winter. We would love for more folks to join us. Contact Lisa-Marie if interested or to find out more about it.

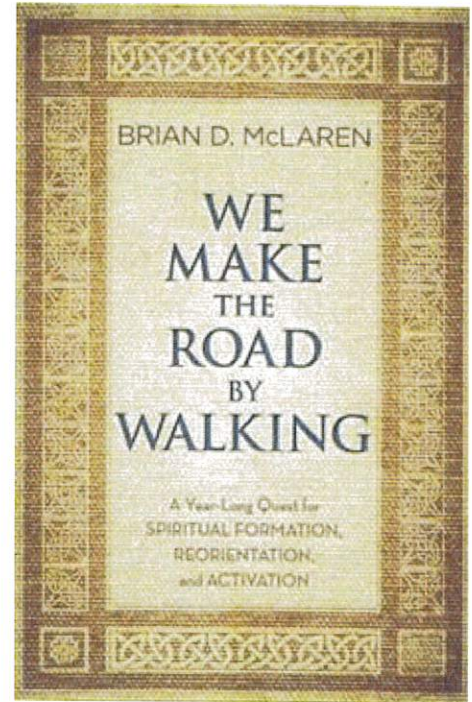


### *A Friendly Reminder...*



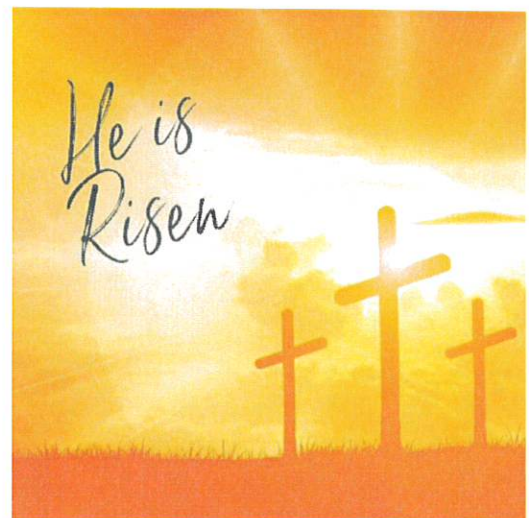
*Articles for Circuit Rider are due the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month!*

*Submit to [admin@abumc.org](mailto:admin@abumc.org)*



## Adult Ed Class

Join retired pastor Keith Wolf in a Sunday Morning Study. Discussions will be at 10:00 a.m. April 24th, May 8th, 22, & 29. Each week will be a discussion of the chapter that worship is centered on from Brian McLaren's book, We Make the Road By Walking; A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation, and Activation.



# CIRCUIT RIDER

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church  
1174 Algoma Boulevard  
Oshkosh, WI 54901

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Circuit Rider is published monthly for the members and constituents of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church, 1174 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh, WI 54901-3596. Your contributions (due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month), comments and suggestions are welcome and appreciated.

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