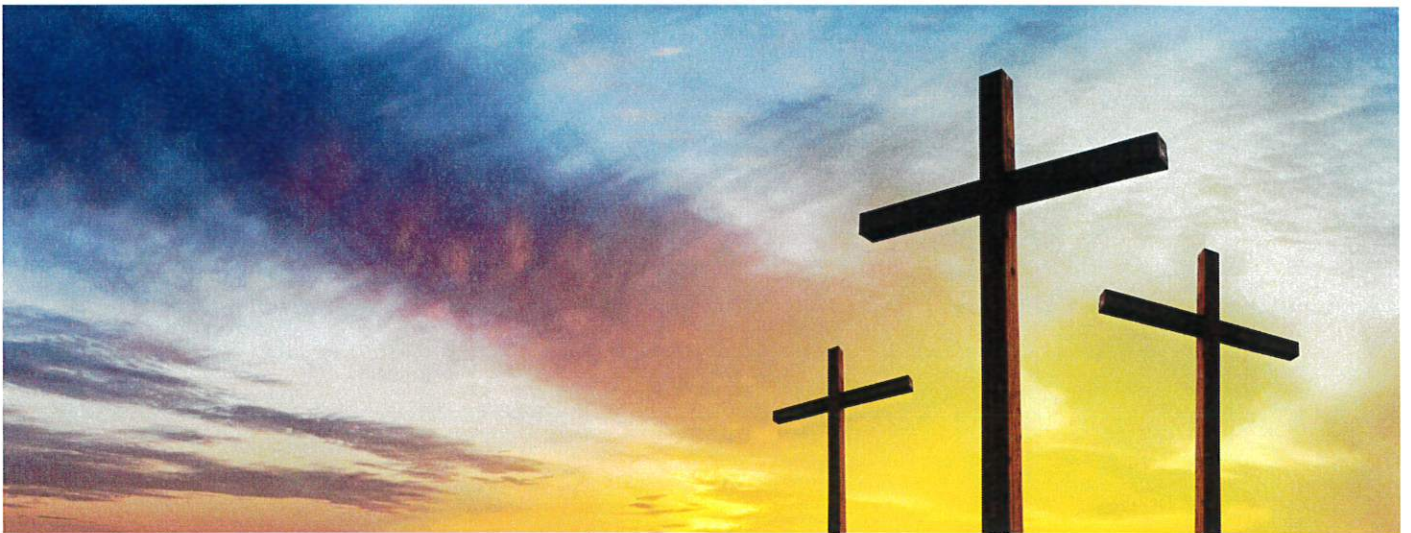


MISSION STATEMENT: *As the Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church family of faith, we will help people experience God through...transformational worship, lifelong learning, inspiring music, life-changing service, and passionate witness.*

HE HAS RISEN!!

Easter Services

March 31st at 9:00 am & 10:30 am



Soul Reset: breakdown, breakthrough, and
journey towards wholeness
2024 Lenten series continues...



FROM THE HEART OF PASTOR ELLEN

March, 2024

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni"

(which means Teacher.) ~ John 20.16 CEB

Dear Beloved ~

Our first Holy Week together is almost upon us! Oh, how my heart sings to celebrate these sacred times with you! It is a great joy to be among you, and I am grateful to be on this journey with all of you.

Our Lenten series, Soul Reset: breakdown, breakthrough and the journey to wholeness, is helping all of us to prepare for the heart-stretching, mind-numbing, soul-exploding events of Holy Week as we witness Jesus moving from hero to servant to villain to death to silence and then into new life. The spiritual disciplines we practice are guiding our journey to God, growing in closeness and openness, and better hearing God's call for us. As Mary recognized Jesus when he called her name, we, too, can recognize Jesus when he calls our names.

I'd love to hear from you. Which of the

practices, the spiritual disciplines, or a.k.a. *the means of grace*, do you most connect to? Was it the Examen? Or prayer? Or fasting? Or caring for your body? Or worship? Or confession? Which brought you closer to God so that you

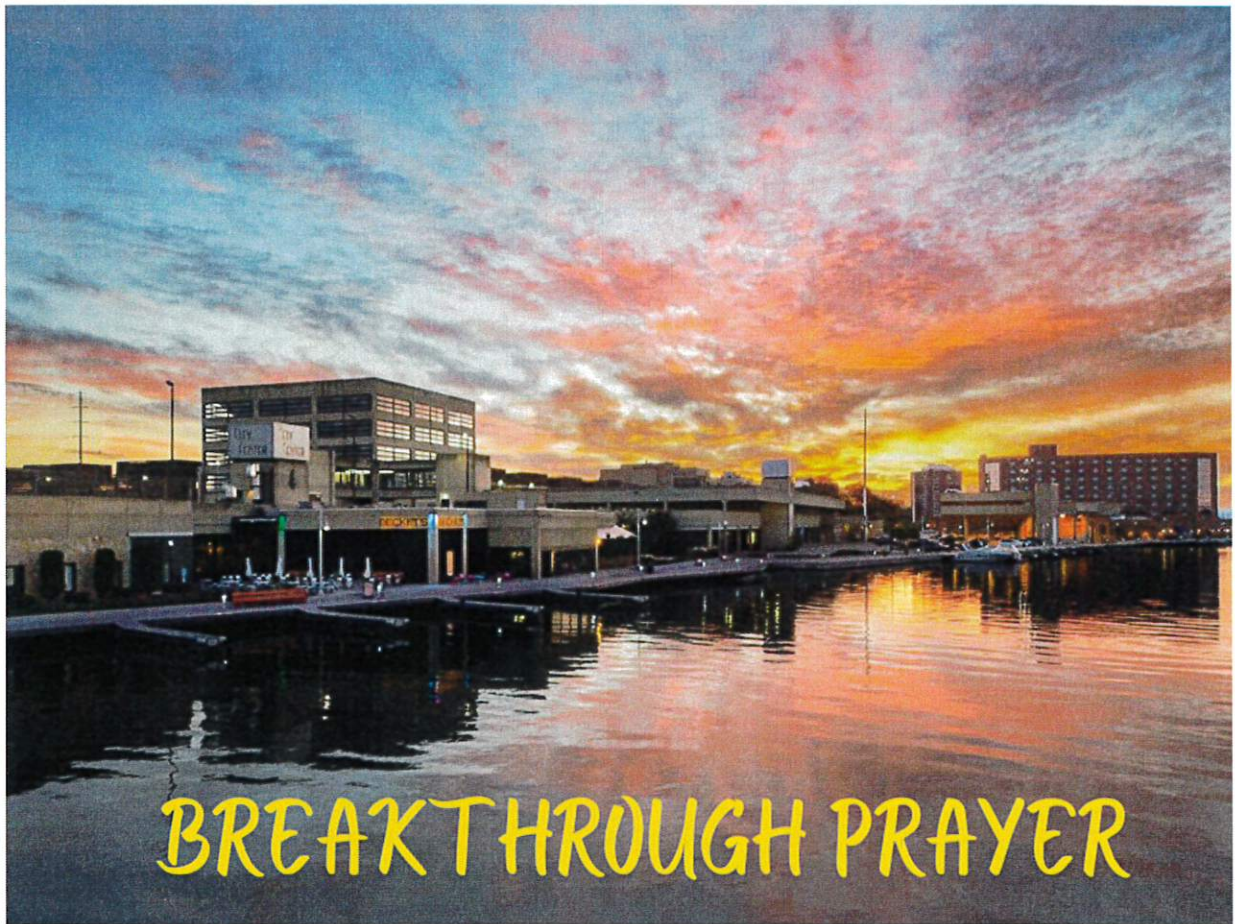
could hear the whispered word of God more clearly?

Before we get to Easter and the resurrection story, the story of new hope, new life, and new beginnings, we will journey through death and grief. Most of us

work to avoid journeys with pain, loss, and suffering. Still, I believe the Triduum (Maundy Thursday through the Easter Vigil) can equip and strengthen us for the journey through the valleys of life. So come, learn, love, and be transformed this holy season.

Love & Peace,
Pastor Ellen





[Photo courtesy of Discover Oshkosh and used with permission.]

Breakthrough Prayer for March

Throughout the month of March, I invite you to set aside five minutes each day to quiet your heart and pray this breakthrough prayer. Choose a time that is easy to remember, such as 12 noon. This is also a familiar hymn, so the melody may also help you as you pray. Feel yourself wrapped in God's love. Listen for God in this time.

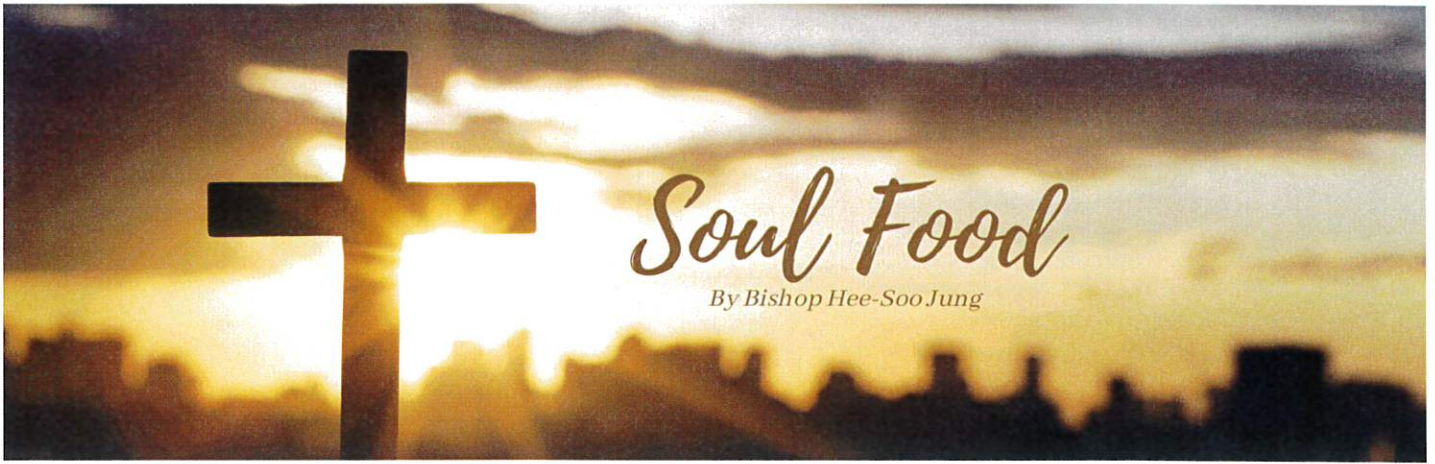
— Sheri Graeber, Lay Leader

Here I am, Lord.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me.



**A Lenten Journey Greeting
by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
February 2024**

As a conference, this Lenten Season, we will engage in a book study, *Dynamite Prayer: A 28-Day Experiment* by Rosario Picardo and Sue Nilson Kibbey. This study is designed to help participants meditate on Scripture, reflect on questions for the day, write a short breakthrough prayer, and utilize these prayers as part of their daily activity.

Our dynamite prayer initiative will give one more additional missional reason for us to be of one mind after disaffiliation and separation. Prayer will allow us to go deep in unity and solidarity.

As part of our encouragement, the full cabinet and three support staff have written a breakthrough prayer that will be posted on Facebook and on the conference website, Monday through Friday, to connect each of us – one to another. It is a marvelous opportunity to be intentional, thoughtful, and courageous in our prayer life.

As we begin this Lenten Study, I hope that this will be a catalyst for renewal in our church and in our personal dedication to Jesus Christ. Wednesday, February 14, 2024, is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of our prayerful journey. I offer this poem about prayer.

When we look at the sky with prayer,
Our heart goes towards hope.
Carrying us to Your divine presence in prayer,
That prayer makes us new again.

Your will is done on earth....
Our sorrowful feelings are so strong,
We learn to pray right then and there.
Still saying a prayer of gratitude without limits.
Wish emptying while praying,
Letting go of ourselves while praying,
As we pray, we embrace the world with love.
Now come, Jesus Christ,
We want to know You intimately.
As if eating a meal, approach the Lord,
expecting something new every moment.
Learn to pray and practice a prayer,
Write a prayer and sing a prayer,
Pray a prayer,,,,, and
Longing for God's heart this Lent.
Renew our hearts,
Refresh our churches,
Rebuild our prayer altars,
O God, our love, be again Center-Act for us.
Your salvation!

If you would like a copy of Dynamite Prayer, please stop by the office.

We have two copies to share. First come. First served.

(However, you can call ahead, and we'll set a copy aside for you. ☺)

What's Up in Worship ...

**SOUL
RESET**
breakdown, breakthrough,
and the journey to wholeness

Lent 3
JUNIUS B. DOTSON

Sunday, March 3, 2024
"Take Care of Yourself"
1 Kings 19.5-9
Rev. Ellen Rasmussen

Taking care of ourselves sustains us for “whatever” life throws at us, whether on mountaintops or valleys. We all have mountaintop experiences, but most of our lives are not lived there. We all have valley experiences, and fortunately, life is not lived just in the valleys. Most of life is lived somewhere in between. How do we care for ourselves and each other in the extraordinary and ordinary days of our lives?

Spiritual Practice: Fasting

**SOUL
RESET**
breakdown, breakthrough,
and the journey to wholeness

Lent 4
JUNIUS B. DOTSON

Sunday, March 10, 2024
"Life In Crisis"
The Book of Job
Rev. Ellen Rasmussen

A gift we can give ourselves is the ability to be ourselves in the midst of grief. To not pretend that we have it all together. We do not put a timetable on our grief but know that God heals in God's time, and that's okay. To know that as you are moving through the grief process, there are people who know you and support you every step of the way.

Spiritual Practice: Taking Care of Our Bodies

SOUL RESET

breakdown, breakthrough,
and the journey to wholeness

Lent 4

JUNIUS B. DOTSON

Sunday, March 17, 2024

"Light and Free Living"

John 3.16-17, Matthew 26.34, John 21,

Matthew 28-30 MSG

Rev. Ellen Rasmussen

God didn't come to condemn us but to save us. God didn't come to shame us into a relationship. God didn't send Jesus to condemn us and make us run and hide. No, Jesus came to free us from shame and fear and sin and darkness.

Spiritual Practice: Worship

HOLY WEEK 3/24 - 3/31

Palm Sunday

9 am and 10:30 am

March 24, 2024

A Passion Narrative

Choir Cantata

ABUMC Choir

Todd Kaphaem

Palm Sunday, 3/24/2024 - Choir Cantata both services

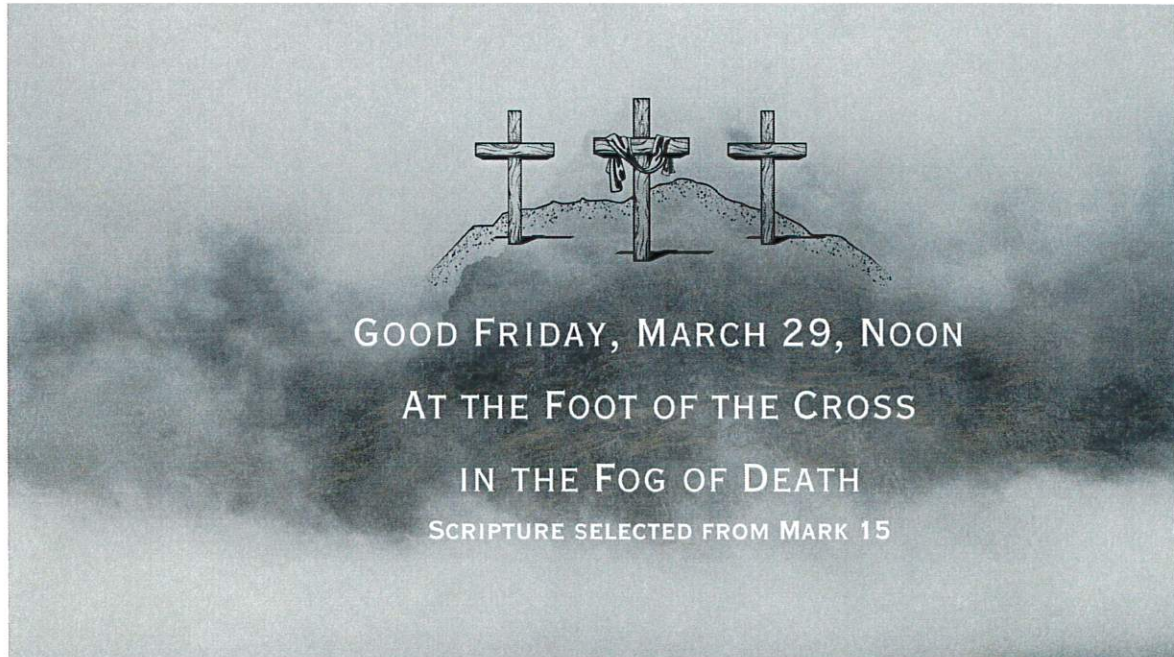
Spiritual Practice: Confession



Thursday, 3/28, 7 p.m. - Holy Thursday

Before Jesus went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray, he shared a meal with friends. What follows is the stuff of nightmares, not dreams...

Scripture readings from Mark 14



Friday, 3/29, NOON - Good Friday

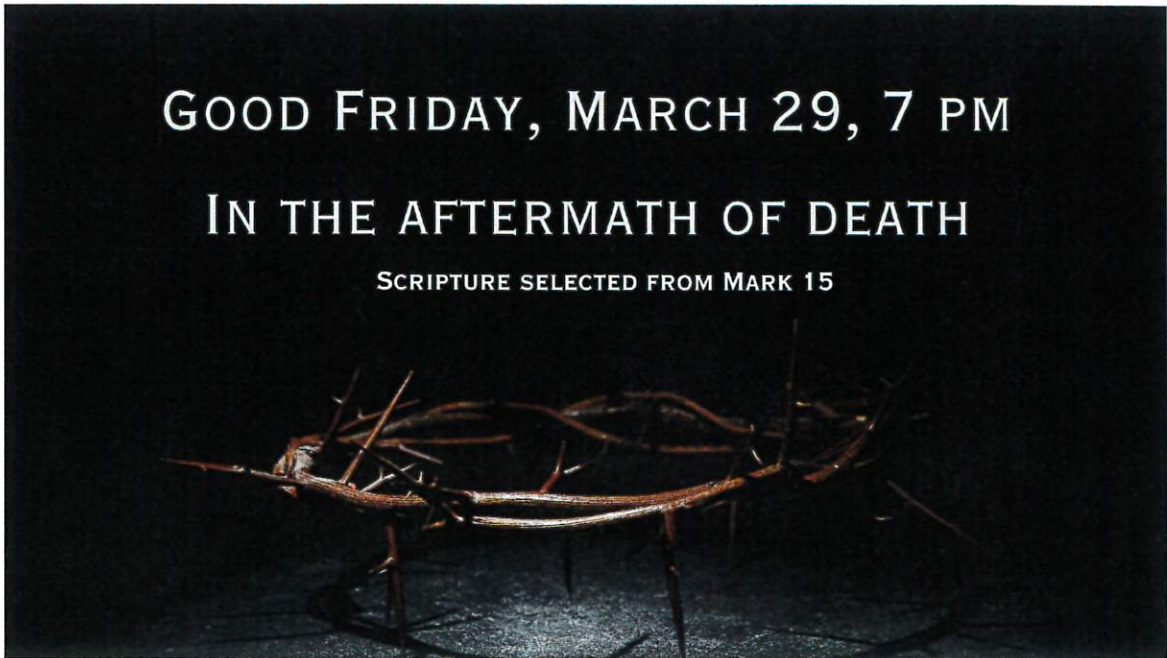
Face to face with death

Scripture readings from Mark 15

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 7 PM

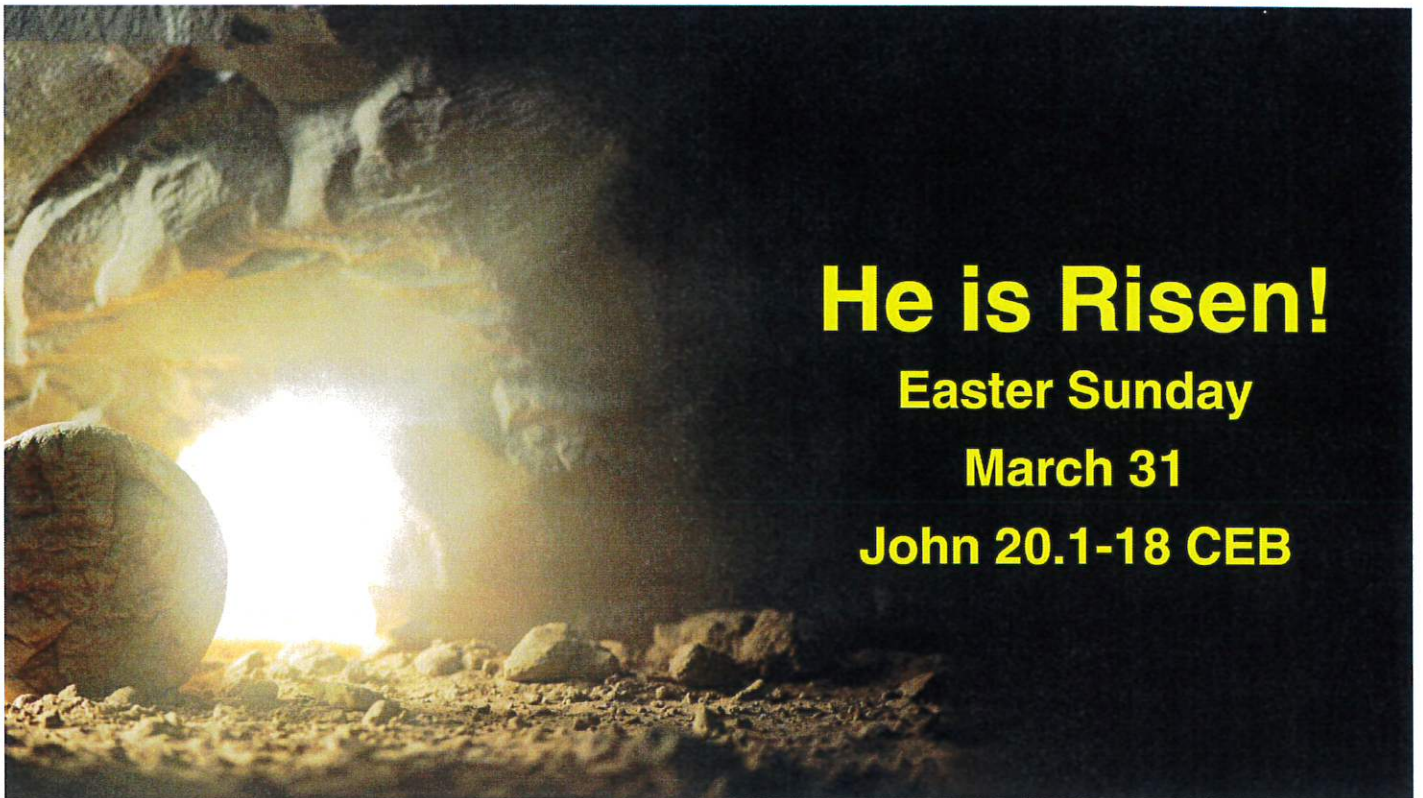
IN THE AFTERMATH OF DEATH

SCRIPTURE SELECTED FROM MARK 15



Friday, 3/29, 7 p.m. - Good Friday

What do we do, where do we go, when we sit in the darkness of death?
Scripture readings from Mark 15



He is Risen!

Easter Sunday

March 31

John 20.1-18 CEB

EASTER SUNDAY 9 & 10:30 AM

GROWING OUR FAITH:

March Coins

Haiti Alive

During the month of March, your offering coins will benefit Haiti Alive. Haiti Alive is a nonprofit organized to serve God and to bring hope, health, and happiness to the people on the island of La Gonave, Haiti. The message of Christ is conveyed through education, healthcare, and ministering to those in need, especially women, children, and the elderly.

Craig Blumer's brother, Bruce, was a co-founder of Haiti Alive. Bruce went to La Gonave, Haiti, on a church medical mission in 2008 and again in 2010. He was there during the devastating 2010 Haiti earthquake. The island was not as impacted as Port-au-Prince, where the effect was tremendous, but it had a huge effect on Bruce. He returned on his own a year later to ask people what they needed. What he heard has become the focus of Haiti Alive — Education, Healthcare, and Women & Children. This effort started as a mission of their church and then grew into its own nonprofit organization. Check out Bruce's blog [here](https://bruceblumer.com/endurance/).

(<https://bruceblumer.com/endurance/>)

The goal of the Haiti Alive Village is to provide a hand-up for women by constructing simple homes, allowing women and their families to move away

from difficult living settings, and providing women equity by owning a home and property.

There is a shortage of medical care across the island of La Gonave. The medicine and care provided through Haiti Alive's clinics are truly life-giving and life-saving. Mobile clinics travel to small villages to provide care for those who have no access to medical care or are unable to travel.

A school for grades 1-9 is provided, including a computer lab, language lab, a daily meal, a nurse on staff, a bus to pick up the children, and security 24 hours a day.



College Care Packages!

Celebrate our ABUMC college and graduate school students and show them how much they are loved by purchasing a care package to be delivered to them! Imagine their surprise and gratitude when they receive it!

See the list of students on the table in the missions area and choose a recipient. Gifts must fit in the padded envelopes provided, so keep that in mind when choosing your items. Some ideas: gift cards, lip balm, hand lotion, candy, special soap, fun socks, snacks, Vitamin C drops, Altoids, card games like Exploding Kittens, and highlighters.

Gifts must be returned by March 10th.



**THANK
YOU!**
♥

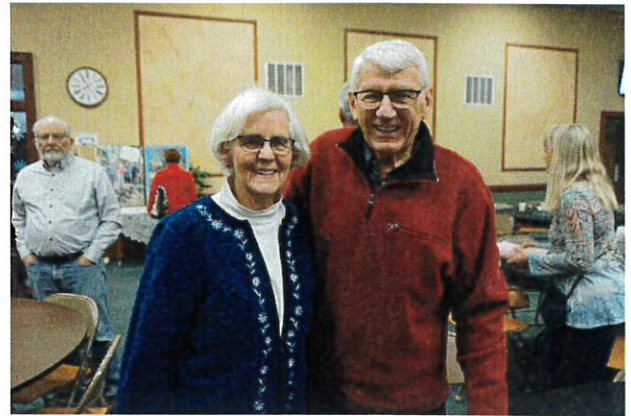


Wowza!

The folks of ABUMC came through in another big way in January and February! Throughout the month of January, we collected non-perishable food and personal care items for the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry. We culminated our food drive with the annual Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday, where we took our final collection of food items and monetary donations. In all, we **raised \$374 dollars and donated 280 items** to the pantry. Thank you for caring for the vulnerable families of Oshkosh.

A Tremendous Event

Words can scarcely convey our gratitude for the wonderful generosity displayed at the annual dinner and auction to raise funds for the youth mission trip. Once again, the folks of ABUMC went above and beyond to show their love and support for our students with their donations, attendance, purchases, encouragement, and prayers. More than \$9,000 was raised at the event! We look forward to representing ABUMC in Kansas City this July as we serve the people there.





United Women in Faith

On Jan. 24, 2024, Kay Kuenzl-Stenerson of the Teacher's Closet spoke during our unit meeting. Kay presented a very informative talk about the history of the Teacher's Closet, the items that they provide to the teachers in our area, and the new location that they recently acquired.

Supplies were collected and given to Kay. A monetary collection from our members was also donated, along with a speaker's fee. Every year, our unit gives a monetary donation for this important community resource, and it was good to learn more about this valuable service for our local teachers. For more information, check out The Teachers' Closet, Inc. on Facebook.

- Our next unit meeting will be held at 1 p.m. March 20. This meeting will be our kick-off for collecting items for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center during the Annual Conference. Churches are asked to donate items for people in need or suffering from disasters. This year, the unit has decided to collect items for Personal Dignity Kits or Bed Pack Kits until our May 15 meeting. All items and

monetary donations will be given to Pastor Ellen to take to the Annual Conference in June.

- On Saturday, April 13, the Wisconsin United Women in Faith will host Social Action Day via Zoom. The theme is "Ending Mass Incarceration and Improving Treatment of Incarceration Impacted Women." Honorable/Rev. Everett Mitchell will be the keynote speaker. Mitchell is a Dane County circuit court judge and senior pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. He is a fierce advocate for education, social justice, and equity. Peggy West-Schroder also will speak. She is the executive director for FREE, a project led by criminal-legal system-impacted women in Wisconsin. FREE focuses on the gender-specific experiences and collateral consequences of women and girls interacting with the criminal legal system.

Peggy works to ensure that incarcerated women across Wisconsin are treated with dignity, feel supported, and are provided trauma-informed care.

We will gather at church at 9 a.m. to watch the Zoom sessions. Please look for additional registration information about this important event.

— Sandy Butcher



ABUMC
Capital Campaign Update

Goal \$550,000
 Estimate of Planned Giving \$462,000

Completed Projects	2024 Targeted Projects	Balance of Projects
1. New Boilers - \$144,400 2. Algoma Sewer - \$50,600 3. New Security System - \$13,000 4. Foundation Consultant - \$22,000	1. Sanctuary Electrical / Lighting - \$50,000 ??? 2. Sanctuary Carpeting - \$15,000 ???	1. Balance of Carpeting - \$70,000 ??? 2. Tuckpointing - \$100,000 ??? 3. Parking lot resurface - \$100,000 ??? 4. Exterior Painting - \$35,000 ???

Total Spent 2023 - \$230,000

Account Balance as of Jan. 31- \$42,000

How To Give At ABUMC

We honor our baptismal and membership vows to God by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As contributors to a connectional system, our gifts have a global impact. Thank you for your generous support of the ministries at work in and through the people of ABUMC.

To Give In-Person: Envelopes are available at each worship experience, and you can designate how you would like your gift distributed. Cash and checks payable to ABUMC are accepted.

To Give Electronically:

Online at: <https://www.abumc.org/giving> —Select “How to Give” and follow the online giving link.

Through your bank: Work with your online banking system to set up recurring or one-time payments through options like ZELLE or electronic funds transfer.

To Mail Gifts:

Please make your check payable to ABUMC and send your gift to

ABUMC
 1174 Algoma Boulevard
 Oshkosh, WI 54901

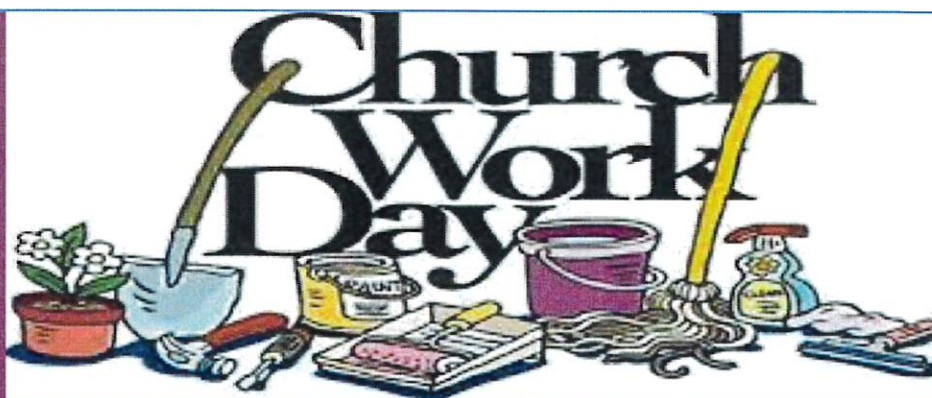
For assistance with any of these options, please contact our staff at 920.231.2800.

Thank you for your gifts.



UMCOR SUNDAY is March 10

Please give generously to support humanitarian aid relief. UMCOR does not receive apportionment dollars. The global infrastructure is supported through your donations so that 100% of funds given for a specific disaster benefit those impacted.



Deep Clean for Easter

Saturday, March 9 - 9 am to 1 pm

Bring your Vacuums and Crevice tools!

Facebook and abumc.org

Join Us! All Welcome!