



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 July 2023



Welcome Pastor Ellen!

We are excited to welcome our new pastor, the Rev. Ellen Rasmussen! Our first opportunity to worship with Pastor Ellen will be Sunday, July 16th. Please join us in offering a warm ABUMC greeting as she becomes a part of our family of faith.

An introduction from Pastor Ellen:

Dear Beautiful People of Algoma Boulevard UMC -

One of the many things that I have learned is to walk into a room and be prepared to love all those who are present. Bishop Jung teaches us that all are Beautiful People, and I enjoy sharing this greeting. Blessings to all of you.

I am a journey theologian and grateful that my journey moves me toward wholeness and healing in God's love, or as John Wesley labeled it, Christian Perfection. We must be able to live out our faith in a manner that makes sense while we worship God and serve one another. I strive to live out my life

following the General Rule of Discipleship: to witness Jesus Christ at work in the world through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Justice is at the core of my being, and not just any justice, but God's justice with peace. To that end, my call connects me to those within the congregation and community.

While serving the people of Brown Deer UMC and the Milwaukee area communities, I also have served on the United Methodist Children's Services Board of Directors (2017 to current; president 1/2021 - 12/2022), Human Growth & Development Curriculum Committee for Brown Deer Schools (2020-21), and I volunteer and serve as chaplain for Thoreau Elementary School (nearby Milwaukee Public School, 2017-present).

Prior to my arrival in Milwaukee, I served as the chair of the WIAC Board of Church and Society for five years and in Disaster Response Ministry

(2002-2017) as interim coordinator, as well as Spiritual and Emotional Care coordinator. I spent many years with the Peace and Justice Commission of the Wisconsin Council of Churches and Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice. While serving in La Crosse, I helped the community organize a local COAD - Community Organizations Active in Disaster, and I was selected to serve on the Human Rights Commission. In addition to Brown Deer and La Crosse, I have served the people of Fond du Lac, Kenosha, and Rhinelander.

While I enjoy the people I meet and collaborate with in the communities that I serve, my greatest joy is connecting with people on their faith journey and supporting their growth. I am a Wesleyan theologian and have thoroughly enjoyed teaching *Next w/Pastor Ellen*. It is a weekly adult class that uses the foundations of Wesleyan theology to engage current topics and strengthen spiritual practices. We have journeyed through the proposed 2020 Global Social Principles, a variety of Wesleyan discipleship courses, as well as some short-term curricula that I have created. During the pandemic and in anticipation of General Conference 2022, I led the congregation on a year-plus journey through *Something Wesley This Way Comes* - a worship series designed to strengthen our appreciation for our Wesleyan heritage so that if we were asked to make decisions, we would be grounded in who we are. Knowing who we are and whose we are matters.

I know that I am a beloved and cherished daughter of God, and it is by God's grace alone that I am here today. I could never have imagined the life that I lead, and I am grateful. However, I must confess that my favorite title and activities do not have anything to do with the church. I am called Gram E by my grandson and granddaughters, and it is my favorite title. Abby and Joseph live in Appleton with their parents, my son, Joe, and his wife Corissa. My daughter, Erika, lives with her husband, TJ, and daughter, Evelyn, in Racine. I love to cook, especially meals that are free of major allergens, crochet, and play bridge. I am a fan of the Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks, Lakeshore Chinooks, and the Green Bay Packers.

I look forward to being with you.

Praying for our time together.

Love and Peace,
Pastor Ellen

*A Warm Welcome to
Our New Pastor*



July Offering Coins

Christ House opened in December 1985 as the first 24-hour residential medical facility for homeless persons in the United States. Today, Christ House is the largest facility of its kind in Washington, D.C. Patients are admitted to Christ House from area hospitals, shelters, clinics, and medical outreach projects. They suffer from a variety of illnesses including cancer, hypertension and stroke, liver disease, kidney failure, diabetes and related amputations, HIV/AIDS, respiratory disease, major lacerations, fractures, and ulcerations of the skin. Many are malnourished, anemic, depressed, and desperately disconnected from healthy sources of support.

In 2021, Christ House provided health care for 168 patient admissions and 6,411 patient-days of care. The average length of stay was 33 days and 33% of patients had no income at time of admission.

During July, our offering coins will benefit this worthwhile organization.



Graduations: Our hats off to all our ABUMC graduates! We're so proud of you and want to wish you the very best in your future endeavors. Well done!

Walker Dietzen - Oshkosh North HS - will attend FVTC

Connor Millette - Oshkosh West HS - taking a gap year

Faith Zehner - UW-Oshkosh - Bachelor of Science

Olivia Komorowski - Wichita State University - Bachelor of Science

Laura Wagner - Univ. of Minnesota - Masters in Education and Human Development



Wisconsin Annual Conference
2023



Annual Conference 2023

Anne Fields and Sheri Graeber attended the 2023 Annual Conference. The attached link has a summary and the highlights from the conference.

<https://www.wisconsinumc.org/news-detail/2023-annual-conference-summary-highlights-17462674>

Back-to-School Fair

It's that time of year again for the Oshkosh Community Back-to-School Fair. There is a staggering number of families in the Oshkosh school district who qualify for the free lunch program and who are in need of assistance with supplies for the new school year. The fair supplies kids with a new shirt, pants, a haircut, and necessary school and hygiene supplies to begin their year with confidence. We've been asked to help with providing **clothing items**. Check out the slips hanging in the missions area at church. The tags indicate the gender and age of a student and what items of clothing they need. Take a tag, purchase the gift, and return **unwrapped** to the mission bins in the church hallway by August 1st. It is also possible to make a cash donation. Write a check payable to Oshkosh Back to School Fair and place it in an envelope along with the gift tag. Thank you for your support of our Oshkosh kids!

Farewell Pastor Cathy





Mission Trip 2023
Eagle Butte, South Dakota
Cheyenne River Reservation





*"You are precious and honored in my sight...
and I love you."
~Isaiah 43.4*

Dear Beloved ~

I am excited to meet you and begin our ministry adventure together. Please join me in prayer for our ministry, for Pastor Cathy and her new ministry, and for the people of Brown Deer UMC and Redeemer Hmong UMC (my former congregations) as they begin another phase of their faith journey.

I have been spending a lot of time in Isaiah 43. It has guided me through several arcs of my faith journey.

The first was learning how to pray the scriptures using the Augustinian prayer model. It's a spirituality type based on your Myers-Brigg type. It's an intuitive/feeler way of praying, and one of the methods uses dialogue as a way to establish a relationship with God. [*"Prayer and Temperament: Different Prayer Forms For Different Personality Types"* by Michael & Norrissey.] One of the ways that I do this is to substitute my name in scripture. From Isaiah 43.1:

*But now, this is what the Lord says—
he who created you, Jacob Ellen,
he who formed you, Israel, Ellen:
"Do not fear, Ellen, for I have redeemed
you;
I have summoned you by name, Ellen;
you are mine.*

Praying the scriptures in this manner helped convince me that God really did want me and was inviting me into a new way of life.

As we continue reading in this manner, we arrive at verse 4:

*"You are precious and honored in my sight,
Ellen, and I love you." ~ God.*

This transformed into identifying members of my congregations as "Beloved cherished children of God." You'll hear me address you in that manner as well, for I already love you.

Verses 10-12 support my understanding of our discipleship journey when God declares that we are witnesses to God at work in the world. [*UM General Rule of Discipleship: To witness to Jesus Christ at work in the world through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*]

Throughout the pandemic, and especially this spring, I have focused on verses 18 & 19.

*Do not remember the former things
or consider the things of old.
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not
perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.*

I never imagined that the "new thing" would be an adventure with you. I am grateful for the opportunity that is before us. You are precious and honored, and I love you.

*And the "Beloved, Cherished, Children of
God say, Amen."
Love & Peace,
Pastor Ellen*