

September celebration



Sunday, September 12

10 a.m. Worship

You Are Welcome and Bring A Neighbor!

*One celebration worship service at 10 a.m. on the front lawn.

(we'll also be online at 10 a.m. as usual)

*Bring lawn chairs or park on Algoma Boulevard and watch from your car.

*Meet Travis, our new band/worship leader.

*Celebrate the chance to gather together again!

*Stay after worship for outdoor activities, food, and music.

*More information on the website abumc.org as plans come together.





Dear Church Family and Friends,

God is SO good!

As we prepare to launch fall program and planning, a lot of great ministry is starting, and a lot of plans are being prayed through.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will likely have hired one or two of our available staff positions. Lisa-Marie has moved into the role of Connections Coordinator and continues to lead Children's Ministry. We pray our new Youth Coordinator is with us soon, to re-engage our youth after a long time away with covid.

Todd continues in his role as Choir Director and has added Production and Technology. He decided to move out of leadership with the Band and we look forward to welcoming Travis Worth, Band/Worship Leader for the 9:00 service.

Administrator, Katie, is also a professional photographer and videographer. Her business has taken off and she is leaving us to pursue her dream, full time. We celebrate her success!

Please pray for all of our staff, even the ones we've not met yet! We trust that God is helping us put together the right group of people at just the right time to do God's work together.

This fall, we begin a new free meal ministry and continue our outreach work with Read Elementary School. We celebrate having the basement of the Charter Center rented out and are grateful to have some of our empty space used in ways that help children and families in our community.

The Social Justice Book Discussion begins the study of their next book, *Caste*, on Sept 15th.

They continue to look for ways to discuss and make an impact in our community. You are welcome to join in the conversation.

Our website recently had a make over, so there is a lot of good information there about what's coming up. www.abumc.org

The congregation continues to pray each day, beginning with **Mark 12:30-31** and then listening for where God is calling us to be in ministry. Imagining the work we'll be doing this year, in 3 years, in 5 years, and beyond is important as we keep living into our work as Disciples of Jesus Christ. **Where is God speaking in your prayers?**

Church leadership has been pulling together details for a **Capital Campaign**, raising \$500,000 to do significant work in the care of our building - including the parking lot, new boilers, flooring throughout the building, Algoma Blvd. Sewer assessment, work on windows, tuck pointing, lighting and security. Many of these projects are significant when we look to the safety and longevity of our building.

Additionally we're working on a celebration for the **150th Anniversary in 2022**. The celebration gives us a chance to give thanks for the past and launch into future ministry.

I give thanks to God for the exciting ways the Holy Spirit has been moving, even through the challenges of the pandemic. I give thanks for leadership, volunteers, faithful givers, and committed prayers. I am grateful for you! Let's keep praying together.

With God's Grace and Peace,
Rev. Cathy Weigand

Newsletters, Emails and Other Places for Information:

How can we connect with you?



Each month, the church publishes a newsletter.

Some time ago, we shifted from mailing all of them to mailing it only to the households who requested it. It is posted on the website each month for those who want to read it that way.

After doing it this way for some time, we'd like to check back with you and see what you prefer. If you are not receiving the newsletter in the mail and would like to, please let us know and we are happy to print and send one to you. Call the church office or email admin@abumc.org

Each week, an email goes out with information about worship, upcoming events and other information. If you aren't receiving that email and would like to, let us know by emailing admin@abumc.org

Our website recently has been updated. Please check it out at www.abumc.org

and find lots of new information, the online worship services and upcoming activities.

Online Worship Staying!

The online worship services offered each Sunday will continue indefinitely.

“It started out of necessity because of the pandemic, but we’ve seen a different audience connect through this and want to continue to grow and engage people in worship,” says Pastor Cathy Weigand.

While the online services attracted many people who wanted to attend services while in-person services were suspended, there are many others who are finding the service helpful: people who traveling or are snowbirds during the winter months; shut-ins; people who are choosing to be remain cautious with personal interactions because of COVID-19; people who formerly were connected to the church but now live out of the area; and families with young children who find it easier to “squish” together on the couch to watch instead of having to gather everyone together to go in person.

“The other thing that’s been helpful is that if people have other obligations on Sunday morning, they can watch the worship service at any other time through the week,” Pastor Cathy says.

An email to members is sent out each week with a link to the previous Sunday’s worship service. Links to the services also can be found on the website at abumc.org and on YouTube by searching for Algoma Blvd. UMC Oshkosh WI.

“The most important thing is that it gives our congregation another way to take part in worship,” Pastor Cathy says. “It gives people we’ve not yet met a chance to experience worship with us, and it helps us reach out in a way we never imagined in ministry.”

Welcome Travis Worth!

ABUMC's New Band/ Worship Leader

Travis Worth of Appleton is our new band/worship leader for the 9 a.m. service. Todd Kaphaem has transitioned out of this role to concentrate on the technology aspect of continuing online worship. Kaphaem also will continue to lead the Chancel Choir when choirs are able to meet again in person.

Worth's first service will be Sept. 12 during the big celebration worship service.

Worth grew up in Fond du Lac and attended Salem United Methodist Church where Jack Stubbs was then the pastor. Stubbs and his wife, Laura Jean Deming, are now members of Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church. When the call went out for a new band/worship leader at ABUMC, Stubbs urged Worth to apply.

Music has always been a part of Worth's life, and he started performing at the age of 9. Connecting with people is important to him. He graduated in 2015 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in audiology and for the next five years worked for the company Miracle Ear, conducting hearing exams and fitting hearing aids for people.

He decided to leave that job because the calling towards music was much stronger for him. In 2019, he decided to become a musician full time and see if it provided him with a viable future. "Shortly after I quit my

day job, COVID happened," he says. "It was a really trying time to become a gigging musician when all the venues shut down."

However, that experience proved to be a "weird, bizarre blessing," Worth says. He could focus on solely being a professional musician. He has since done a variety of performances, accompaniment, song-writing and directing for children's theatre. He also is part of the duo band Northsoul, which features upright bass, mandolin and vocals.

"I like to feel connected with people on a personal level and be present with people," Worth says. "Music is a way for me to

express the energy of caring for other people. Music gives me a larger palette to explore a deep well of human emotion.

"It's a very spiritual thing. I see God

within us, and music

is a way to look inside and see that part of yourself. It makes you feel connected to the person next to you even if you don't know them. You feel a level of caring and share energy with the people around you.

Everyone has that inside of themselves."

For the past few Sundays, Worth has been coming to ABUMC to get a feel for the parish and its people. "I have a lot of respect for the high value of inclusivity in the church," he says. It is focused on "growing as a community and getting more integrated into the larger community of Oshkosh."



Welcome



Social Justice Book Discussion

The next book

discussion begins Sept. 15. The group will be reading *Caste*, by Isabel Wilkerson. You are welcome to purchase the book and join the Zoom conversation. If you would like more information and the Zoom link, please contact the office at admin@abumc.org.

A review reads: "In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings."

Help with a Special Mission Project

For the upcoming District meeting, United Methodist Women is holding a Special Mission Project for children, and members of ABUMC are welcome to contribute. Items needed for children ages 4 through 12 include toothbrushes, toothpaste, nail files and clippers, body wash, body lotion, shampoo, combs, brushes, wash clothes and towels. Items should be placed into zip-lock bags, labeled children 4-12 and placed in collection bins in the narthex hallway.

Monetary donations also may be directed to Sharon Kardoskee so she can shop for items. Checks can be mailed to Sharon at 680 Oak St., Apt. 212, Oshkosh, WI 54901. She also can be contacted at 920-410-5674.

Donations of kit items and money are due by Sept. 12.



Join Us September 20th for 'Adventures with Youth'

United Methodist Women will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Sept. 20, in Paine Memorial Hall for an interesting discussion about our younger Oshkosh residents. The meeting will be moved to the internet via Zoom.com if CDC guidelines regarding COVID 19 restrict gatherings.

Our speaker, Sean Purtee, is a staff member at the Boys and Girls Club of Oshkosh. He will talk about his "Adventures with Youth." Purtee has been with the organization in Oshkosh for the past 12 years and works with 10- to 19-year-olds. Even if the meeting is on Zoom, Sean will speak to us before our business meeting.

At the business meeting, we will nominate officers for the coming year. We need nominees for two mission coordinator positions that are opening up. One is for Membership, Nurture and Outreach, and one is for Spiritual Growth. Please consider taking one of these jobs or nominate someone you know. There will be support, training and assistance available for the lucky women who are elected to these two positions. Elections will be held at our

November meeting. We also will discuss and vote on our 2022 budget, which will have a few changes from past years.

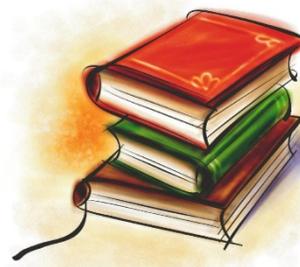
An email will be sent to members before the meeting with notification of the final decision on a meeting place. If you are, or if you know, a member who doesn't have email, please share the meeting information with them.

UMW News and Notes

Several United Methodist Women members from Oshkosh will attend the annual Day of Celebration for the North East Wisconsin District this month in Suamico. The meeting may need to be cancelled, so if you plan to attend please let Rachel Benton know. Her number is 920-420-3121.

The Wisconsin Conference UMW Annual Gathering will be held in Baraboo on Friday evening and Saturday, Oct. 15 and 16. The Gathering will be at First United Methodist Church of Baraboo. All UMW members are welcome to attend and some from Oshkosh will be driving to Baraboo Friday. On Friday evening, the speaker, Deb Bauer from Hope House, will talk about Human Trafficking. On Saturday, there will be sessions on four different topics.

Early registration is \$25, which includes Saturday lunch, and is due by Sept. 22. Late registration is \$35 and is due Oct. 1. You will need to bring your own lunch with late registration. To register by mail, go to www.wisconsinumw.org and click on the home tab then scroll down for the form to fill out. Driving directions will be sent with your confirmation letter. A block of hotel rooms has been reserved at the Best Western Baraboo Inn. To reserve a room, call 608-356-1100 by Tuesday, Sept. 14.



INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

How many of you readers know about or remember the song “School Days, School Days, dear old Golden Rule days. Reading and writing and ‘rithmetic’ — it come to mind when I think of September.

Children

So children, the reviews of your new books have something to do with school but also about good feelings about “being different.” Aren't we glad we're NOT all the same?

Have you ever thought about being forbidden to read or even to learn to read? Long ago in our country, people of color were given the opportunity to learn to read. One young girl lived in a home where other children liked to play school. Because they allowed her to play with the house children when her work was done, she did learn the alphabet and to read simple sentences. When she grew older she felt it was important for all people to know how to read. Since it was forbidden she started to teach a few of the other children workers at night. *Midnight Teacher*, by Janet Halfmann (J921 Hal), is about Lilli Ann Granderson and her secret school. Read to find out what happened when her owner discovered “her school” and students.

Sulwe, by Lupita Nyong'o (J Fic Nyo). Sulwe didn't like the way she looked. Her skin was blacker than anyone else in her

family or school. Read to find out how she tried to make her skin a lighter color. Although her mother told her she was beautiful, that didn't change her mind. Do you have dreams? Sulwe did. What happened after that? Look carefully at the illustrations and words to discover her changes. Remember! In what ways are *you* loved and beautiful, too?

Adults

Resist and Persist, by Erin Wathen, investigates the gradual acceptance for a few employed women to assume leadership roles. More women are being listed as CEOs of nonprofit humanitarian associations. Pastor Wathen traces this gradual change, or lack of it, within churches as well as the business world. She addresses life in home, sexual abuse, the proof when miscarriage occurs and returning to work.

When a woman is speaking to a group, how men try to override her presentations with unrelated questions (i.e. what happens with our current U.S. vice president) and why women often remain silent. The associated title is "**Faith and the fight for equality.**"

As I am reading the book, my experience is lacking, but the examples may revive some of other readers' experiences.

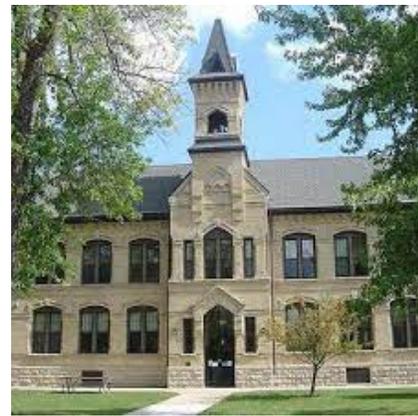
Hopefully we are moving forward. This is a "become informed book."

Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home, by Traci Smith (640 Smi), is a book that parents, grandparents and anyone who works with children might want to examine. While the title indicates home use, it could be useful for other locations, too. It suggests ways to add spiritual and creative depth to holidays and special occasions. It is divided by special

days, holidays, difficult times, spiritual events and ordinary days, too. The author describes 50 faith practices that are "imaginative, provocative and developmentally appropriate." You probably do some of these things already, but they may provide a new idea or direction. Some require minor prep work, but none requires great expense or special skills. Traci Smith is a pastor and mother of three and has written other books on this subject. This book can be found in the UMW shelves in the Spiritual Growth section.

— Rachel Benton and Jan Nash

Read in Need



We are blessed to have our church located right next door to an elementary school. Over the years we've used their playgrounds, ball diamond, yard and gymnasium for our youth activities. For those of us in the church office, we get to see the kids being dropped off for school and hear the excited squeals as they burn off energy during recess. As a congregation, we have a unique opportunity to minister to the needs of children in our community by getting involved with our neighbors at Read Elementary.

An Interesting Trip!

I wasn't sure what to expect from this mission trip. It was going to be unique, that I knew. We had just seven students, when we had 17 registered for the cancelled 2020 trip. Not only that, but it was an interesting assortment of kids, including two young newbies, two graduated seniors, and one brave soul from Family Church who really didn't know any of the rest of us. Instead of a group of around 90 at the site in Cleveland, there would be just one other group joining ours and they had fewer than 10. And this was going to be my last trip as youth leader. For all those reasons it was unique, it was unusual and it was amazing! The group blended well, encouraged one another, laughed together and did what we came to do. It took a couple of days, but we managed to engage with the other group, who was also from Wisconsin, and got them hooked on playing our 9 Square game with us.

Sadly, the trip ended with an unfortunate accident. Just as the group pulled away from our site, headed for home, the van was hit and rendered undrivable. We are so thankful that no one was injured. And we are endlessly grateful for everything Steve and Sherry did to get our kids home safely, albeit 10 hours later than planned! What an ordeal.

This trip was bittersweet for me. I have enjoyed being the Youth Director for 10 years, and these mission trips have been a highlight. I will miss them. I will miss my partner in crime all these years, Steve-O. I will miss the shenanigans and the laughs and the tears and the hard work with the kids. I have been blessed! *Lisa-Marie*



Back-to-School Party

We love to let the families of Read Elementary know how much we love them, and one way we do that is to hold a back-to-school party! Students and their families will be invited to the church front lawn Friday, Sept. 10, from 2:45-4:30 to enjoy games, a bounce house, crafts and some popcorn! It's always a fun day, seeing the kids smiling and enjoying our hospitality. We need several volunteers to help make it a success.



Wednesday After School Program

Each month during the school year, there is an early release day when Oshkosh students are released early to allow for professional development opportunities for the staff. ABUMC will again offer our Wednesday After School Program (WASP) on those dates. Read School students may sign up to come to the church for supervised games, crafts, snacks and other activities from 12:45-2:45. Volunteering for WASP is a great way to support and love these awesome kids and their families!

Adopt-a-Classroom

People may assume that the classrooms in the Oshkosh School District have everything they need to educate and meet the needs of the students that inhabit them. But often that is not the case. Some of the supplies are in poor condition or in short supply. The pencils are dull and need sharpening. Young kids forget to bring their morning snack or their family can't afford to send one. Often the teachers use their own money to fill in as needed. This year, we are going to offer to adopt a classroom at Read Elementary. We'll get to know the teacher and students and find out how we can contribute to a successful school year. Stay tuned for more info!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 am Service on The Lawn (Rain Drive in Worship)

9:10 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Online Service

10:30 am Traditional Service in Sanctuary (Masked and Social Distance)



ONLINE GIVING

Is available through a line on our website at abumc.org. If you need help please contact the church office

ABUMC.ORG

Find us online at abumc.org for events announcements and other information. We're also on FACEBOOK as Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church

CONTACT US:

Office Hours

Mon - Thu 8:30am - 1:30pm

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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*

CIRCUIT RIDER ARTICLES DUE BY 15TH OF THE MONTH TO JAYE

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 15th of the month), comments and suggestions are welcome and appreciated.

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