

Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 p.m. Online Worship
(available to watch anytime after 4:00)

5:30 p.m. Casual

8:00 p.m. Traditional

We request that everyone wear masks to in-person worship so we can sing Christmas carols together.



Blue Christmas

We know that the holiday season can be difficult for many who are facing grief, depression, loneliness, and other tough stuff in life. Look for Blue Christmas worship online at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church's Facebook page in the coming weeks.



Love is Christmas

Connecting and Reflecting

Each week in Advent, we will be singing “Love is Christmas” by Sara Bareilles

“Through Advent, a season of darkness, longing for the light, we’ll be doing the work of connecting and reflecting,” says Pastor Cathy. “The Christmas tree in the sanctuary will have many lights. Each week in worship, we’ll work together to make paper chains with reflective paper. We’ll be connecting with God and one another as symbolized by the links of the chain that we’ll add. We’ll be challenged to reflect the light of God’s love as we receive it through this season and in the birth of the Christ Child.”

Listen to the song here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIODr_RWwEc

Love is Christmas

*I don’t care if the house is packed
Or the strings of light are broken
I don’t care if the gifts are wrapped
Or there’s nothing here to open*

*Love is not a toy,
and no paper will conceal it
Love is simply joy that I’m home*

*I don’t care if the carpet’s stained
we’ve got food upon our table
I don’t care if it’s gonna rain,
our little room is warm and stable*

*Love is who we are,
and no season can contain it
Love would never fall for that*

*We sing Ooooooo
Let love lead us, love is Christmas*

*Why so scared that you’ll mess it up?
When perfection keeps you haunted
All we need is your best my love,
that’s all anyone ever wanted*

*Love is how we do,
let no judgment overrule it
Love I look to you, and I sing*

*Let love lead us, love is Christmas
Let love lead us, love is Christmas*

Sara Bareilles is a multi-faceted singer-songwriter, actress, author and producer. She has released several studio albums and written music and lyrics for the Broadway musical “Waitress.”

Her honors include nominations for numerous Grammy Awards, winning one; Tony Awards for work on Broadway; and Prime-Time Emmy Awards. She has sold more than one million albums and more than nine million singles in the United States. Her hit single “Love Song” reached number four on the Billboard Hot 100 and a Grammy nomination for Song of the Year.

She also has performed on Broadway; co-hosted the 2018 72nd Tony Awards; published the *New York Times*-bestselling memoir *Sounds Like Me: My Life (So Far) in Song*; and stars as Dawn Solano in Peacock’s musical comedy *Girls5eva*. by VH1.

OSHKOSH CHAMBER SINGERS
PRESENTS

‘Lessons and Carols’

“Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols,” an Oshkosh tradition for more than 25 years, will be presented Saturday, Dec. 18, by the Oshkosh Chamber Singers.

To accommodate adequate social distancing, two performances will be presented at 4 and 7:30 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, Algoma at Division. Audience members are encouraged to be vaccinated. Masks will be required upon entering the performance venue.

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. They are available from singers, at Heid Music on South Park, Gardina’s on Main Street and at the door. More information is available at oshkoshchambersingers.org or by calling 920-312-8290.

Accompanied by pipe organ and brass ensemble, the Oshkosh Chamber Singers will join with members of the community in song and Scripture celebrating the Advent and Christmas story. Selections will include traditional carols; works by David Willcocks, John Rutter and Randall Thompson; and “The Glory of the Father,” by Egil Hovland, “In Dulci Jubilo,” by Matthew Culloton, “Bogoroditze Devo,” by Sergei Rachmaninoff, “Resonet in Laudibus,” by Z.Randall Stroope, and “My Lord Has Come,” by Will Todd.

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

- 9:00 a.m. Informal worship
- 10:00 a.m. Online worship on Facebook Live
- 10:30 a.m. Traditional worship

SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE CHANGES DECEMBER/JANUARY

December 26th one service at 9:30 a.m.
January 2nd one service at 9:30 a.m.



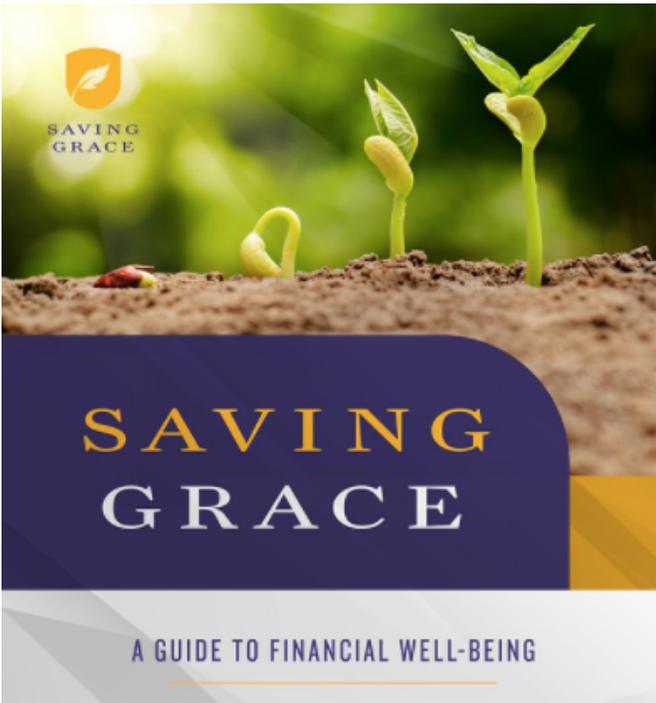
The **Social Justice Book Discussion** will begin the, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, by Isabel Wilkerson - Wednesday, January 5th.

The discussions are online (Zoom) on the 1st and 3rd Wed. of the month 6:00 p.m.

The public library has 10 copies of the book. Or you can order your own.

If you’d like to join the discussion contact Craig or Don. crabar0408@gmail.com or danel563@msn.com

“Wilkerson combines impressive research, with great narrative and literary power. Ms. Wilkerson does for the Great Migration what John Steinbeck did for the Okies in his fiction masterpiece, The Grapes of Wrath; she humanizes history, giving it emotional and psychological depth.”



Thanks to everyone who donated and participated in Operation Christmas Child. The kids were able to fill 92 boxes this year!

Algoma Boulevard UMC is pleased to offer *Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Health* in the New Year.

Saving Grace is a program to help people of faith create healthy relationships with money and possessions.

Participants will move through six sessions covering such topics as saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life.

Adapted from the best-selling *Freed Up Financial Living* from the Good Sense Movement, this study is based on Wesleyan values and provides text and tools to help participants address life concerns and reach personal financial goals.

This class will be open to the community and you are welcome to invite anyone to participate. Look for more information in early January.





Celebrating, donating, and doing the work of loving God and all of our neighbors.

Dear Church Friends and Family,
As we wait through the season of Advent and prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we also prepare to follow God's call in the coming year.

Our leadership teams have been working, praying, and dreaming about all that 2022 holds for us.

In addition to celebrating our 150th year as a congregation, we'll also be launching a capital campaign to raise a significant amount of money to care for our building.

The Trustees have put together a list of the most important needs for our facility as they look to the long range function of our building to equip us to share God's love and grow disciples of Jesus Christ.



We will be sharing more detailed information in coming newsletters.

Projects include replacing things that are aging, broken, or have safety concerns, as well as things that help us continue to follow God's call into the next 150 years.

- replace two boilers that are old and require significant maintenance.

- replace flooring throughout the building, especially places where it is worn or rippling.

- replace our aging parking lot and care for trip hazards and traffic flow.

- prepare for the bill as the city works on Algoma Blvd next year.

- smaller projects including paint/repair of exterior windows, replace bulbs and broken Sanctuary lighting, upgraded security system, new phone system, and tuck pointing.

As part of this work, we will be asking you to participate in interviews to share your prayers, your dreams, and your commitment to God's work in this community.



The UM Foundation will help us study potential outcomes and learn the best ways to have success in our fundraising. We pray that together we can celebrate all we've been given from founders 150 years ago, and prepare for the next 150 years.

*With God's Joy,
Pastor Cathy*

Angel Tree

We are in the midst of our annual Angel Tree mission. Prison Fellowship Angel Tree provides us the opportunity to extend the hope of the Gospel and brighten the life of children by delivering Christmas gifts on behalf of incarcerated parents. These gifts help the children feel valued and loved.

Gratefully, all tags have been chosen! **Angel Tree gifts should be returned to church by December 5.** Volunteers will deliver gifts to the children before Christmas.



Monthly Coin Ministry Resumes

We are grateful to be gathering for worship again in our beautiful sanctuary! As things slowly return to “normal” we will be reinstating our monthly coin ministry in January. Each month, we will feature a nonprofit that will benefit from a collection of coins during the offering. So, we ask that you try to scrape together coins from your cup holder, wallet, recliner and pockets to drop in the offering basket each week!



Advent Coin Banks

Please be sure that your family takes a coin bank and Advent devotional, *Signs of the Sacred*, provided by The Society of St. Andrew. Banks and devotionals may be found on the table at the back of the sanctuary and in the church office. Spend time each day reading the brief devotional, scripture and prayer and prepare yourself for the birth of our Lord.

We hope that you will get acquainted with and generously contribute your coins to this wonderful ministry. If you are unable to pick up a bank and devotional, you may still participate in this Advent activity. Go to www.endhunger.org/advent and download the devotional or sign up for it to be sent via email daily. A donation may be sent to the church. Be sure to indicate it is for *The Society of St. Andrew*.



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.



Cookie Walk

Plan to shop for your holiday cookie and treats needs at the annual Cookie Walk of United Methodist Women. It will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 11, in Paine Hall.

A wide assortment of homemade holiday treats will be available for \$10 per pound. Plastic gloves, masks and social distancing will be required.

In order for this sale to be a success, UMW is asking all bakers to dust off your recipes and get out your aprons! Please drop off your donations on Friday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. or Saturday, Dec. 11, at 8 a.m. If you are available to help staff the sale, please contact Sandi C. at 920-233-0647 or Sandy B. at 920-426-3114.

Proceeds from the sale are used to fund the group's mission projects for the coming year. These projects are local to Oshkosh and the greater Wisconsin community, as well as global programs with an emphasis on helping women and children.

December United Methodist Women Activities

***Preparation before the Cookie Walk** will be at ABUMC on Friday, Dec. 10, from 2 to 4 p.m. Members: please sign up to work on Friday afternoon and Saturday by calling Sandi Challoner at 920-233-0647.

*Saturday, Dec. 11, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., **UMW Christmas Cookie Walk**. Come in for some great holiday treats!

*Monday, Dec. 21, 11:30 a.m., **UMW Christmas Luncheon** at Evergreen Retirement Community. There is limited space, so UMW members must sign up with Sandi Challoner by calling 920-233-0647. Cost of the luncheon is \$8 per person.



JANUARY 7-9, 2022

All are welcome to come and enjoy outdoor winter sports or just sit by the indoor fire reading or playing games. There is something for everyone of all ages and families!

For reservations or more information, send an email to admin@abumc.org



John 1:4: “In Him was life; and the life was the light of all.”

John 8:12: “I am the light of the world: all that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”



INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

December - Advent - Joy – Prepare:
Two crates of books have been stored in a corner of our library closet waiting for this season. Many of the books within are waiting for children and families to reopen their covers to enjoy stories of Jesus’ birth and the season of “Preparation.”

CHILDREN:

There are many books that tell the scriptural story of Jesus’ birth. Stories from the lives of children and animals also demonstrate examples of living the Spirit of Christmas.

- ***The Story of Christmas — a Nativity Tale for Children***, is retold by Anita Ganeri. J232.9 Gan). The story is told via a play using children in costume. Large pictures and few words are used.

- A book for very young children telling of Jesus’ birth is ***When Jesus Was Born***, retold by Maryann J. Dotts (J232.92 Dot). Children will enjoy participating in telling the story.
- In ***Dragon’s Merry Christmas***, by Dav Pilkey, the dragon sets out to purchase gifts for himself after devouring his candy wreath. Where does the Spirit of Christmas enter? The book tells it all. (J Fic Pil).
- ***Jesus’ Christmas Party***, by Nicholas Allan (J Fic All), tells the story of the grumpy sleepy innkeeper whose sleep was continuously disturbed. Why? Did his mood ever change? Did he ever get some sleep? Enjoy this new tale of Jesus’ birth.
- ***Emma’s Gift***, by Molly Schaar Idle. (JFic Idl), unfolds to tell the real Spirit of Christmas. Emma is disappointed when there is no snow for Christmas. Then her grandmother cannot come, but Emma can open her present from her grandmother. She wears her new clothing to buy a wreath for the family’s door. Watch for the Spirit of Christmas. Enjoy!
- ***Humphrey’s First Christmas***, by Carol Heyer, about Humphrey the camel, is back and available for viewing.

Please take time to select at least one book or more from the Open Door Library (next to the Harmony Room) to share with your family.

ADULTS:

- ***In Search of Christmas*** (263.91 Ide.) was compiled by Ideals Publications using pictures created by famous artists who shared the scenes in their minds that showed some aspects of Advent. They are tied together with the use of Scripture and stories. You will enjoy its pages.
- ***Climate Church, Climate World; How People of Faith Must Work for Change***, by Jim Antal, is the book Bishop Jung recommended for us in a posting in ABUMCer's. The call number is 261.8 Ant. Antal is a minister in the United Church of Christ in Massachusetts and is an activist for saving the planet. "We can shift our focus from personal salvation to collective salvation. ...Climate change amplifies all forms of injustice — hunger, refugees, racism, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses, war. ..." He discusses the current situation (2018 copyright, things are worse three years later), whether the church cares and why, and how we practice discipleship individually and with group actions. He gives concrete suggestions of things we can do.
- ***Women of Oshkosh***, by Ron LaPoint (920 LaP), is a new publication by a local historian. "The twenty-seven women featured in the book are names from the past and those

currently engaged in making our community stronger and more responsive to those in need." Fifteen of the women are still alive and making their contributions to Oshkosh. A special reason ABUMC is interested in this book is because our own Kathy Propp is included. Her picture is even on the cover! She has been a leader in several organizations including League of Women Voters, City Council, the Planning Commission, Mayor and more. We are proud!

Best Wishes for a blessed and meaningful experience of the SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS.

— Jan Nash and Rachel Benton

