



Algoma Blvd. 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.

March 2021



COVID-19 Memorial

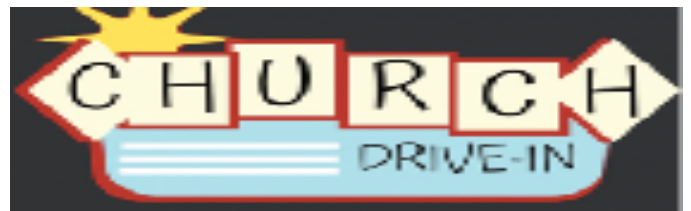
Have you stopped by the church to add a ribbon to the COVID-19 memorial in our front yard? Our wish is that we fill the display to overflowing with colorful ribbons to honor all of the more than 6,000 lives lost in Wisconsin. You do not need to personally know someone who has passed. We want to pay respects to them all.

A string of lights stretches along the curved sidewalk in front of the cement bench on the corner of New York Avenue and Algoma Boulevard. We invite you to tie a ribbon or ribbons on the display and we ask that you spread the word to your family, neighbors and friends. A bin at the site contains ribbons as well as prayer slips.

Are you physically unable to come to the memorial but would still like to take part? Email Lisa-Marie at kidsandyouth@abumc.org. Request that a ribbon be attached on your behalf.



Katie is in the office from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. She can be reached at 920-231-2800 or at admin@abumc.org.



March 7, 2021, 9:00 am
Music Starts 8:45 am on FM 88.3

- * Make a sign and place on top of car to let everyone know who is there!
- * Online Worship at 10 on Facebook Live
- * For cancellation due to weather see Facebook or abumc.org



See You There!





Zoom with United Methodist Women at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 22. An invitation will be sent to your email a few days before the meeting.

“She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference” will be presented by Gail Sullivan. The program reminds us that UMW has been advocating for women and children for more than 150 years. There also will be a brief business meeting.

This is our annual Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. Our offering will support mission institutions and international organizations that promote leadership development and the well-being of women, children and families in need. You can mail your offering to Barb Diener-Blumer, 961 Wylde Oak Drve., Oshkosh, WI 54904.

The program includes an activity that we will do together. Scripture readings and copies of material to read in advance will be emailed to members. In addition, each participant will need a piece of 8½-by-11-inch paper, scissors, tape and two or three paperback or hard-cover books. If you do not have email, contact Gail at 920-410-8706.

Starting now, members should begin assembling material for Women’s Health Kits, which will be collected at our May 23 meeting and taken to Annual Conference in

June and shared with several agencies. The list of items is below. If you have questions about the kits, call Sharon Kardoskee at 920-410-5674.

Health Kits for Wisconsin Women in Distress

Members and non-members alike can help by purchasing items on the list below and assemble each compete kit in a large, clear bag and mark it “Wisconsin Conference Hospitality Kit for Women.” Each kit should contain one each of the following:

- Antiperspirant
- Bar of soap
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Washcloth
- Comb
- Hand sanitizer
- Nail clippers
- Emery board
- Sewing repair kit
- Lip balm
- Travel-size tissue packet
- Six adhesive plain plastic bandage strips



**Sunday March 14, 2021
&
Change Your Batteries!**



Sarah Thompson

Gives Back Because of Positive Role Models



Belonging to ABUMC and giving back to ABUMC are woven into the tapestry of life for Sarah Thompson.

Her parents, Claud and Athie Thompson,

were active members when Sarah was born.

“Dad grew up in the church,” she says.

When her parents married in 1957, her mother joined ABUMC as well.

Claud, who turns 91 in April, is still a member. Athie died in 2008.

Sarah was baptized here and confirmed in the eighth grade.

“My parents had both served as trustees when I was a kid,” Sarah says, “and it was neat to follow in my parents’ footsteps and serve in all sorts of different roles at the church.”

She also credits excellent youth leaders in inspiring her interest in service.

After going on several mission trips to the Red Bird Mission School in Kentucky, she taught there for 15 years before returning to Oshkosh in 2010. She now works for the 4-H Youth Development Program for Winnebago County.

She is proud that many familiar ABUMC faces give of their time to help youths in the program, including:

Terry Kippa, Andy and Nancy Irvine, the Numrich family and Jim Barthel.

At ABUMC, Sarah has served as a trustee, on the worship committee and the Council on Ministries, and as an usher, greeter and Scripture reader “forever!” Sarah says.

“I feel like this is what we’re supposed to do. Giving back is your Christian belief in action. I had it modeled by my parents and so many positive role models at church growing up. That showed us how to give back, how to serve and be grateful for everything.”

On a Friday evening a few weeks ago, a request went out for someone to come to church to help clear snow off the steps and entryways before Sunday services. Sarah didn’t hesitate to go and help — and it was her birthday.

“It didn’t even faze me,” she says. “It’s what you do. There was a need, and I wanted to help. It’s how I try to live my life.”

Loving Our Church Home - Virtually

We have been recording a prayer tour of our building. It has been so long since we gathered together at ABUMC. We miss it and we miss one another. If you haven’t seen the videos, check them out and pray for our building as we ask God how we can use our space to grow in faith and seek new ways to love God and love all of our neighbors. Go to the link below to watch and pray: <https://bit.ly/3IS43MI>.

Dear Church Friends and Family,



Over the past few years, Todd, our music director, has suggested that we put sermon videos online. I always said

no. I was not interested in doing online worship. But nearly a year ago we were forced into it.

Todd and I have spent endless hours learning, imagining, working, and creating something that looks and feels like worship.

Todd's job shifted pretty quickly from choir and band, to video and audio. With help from choir and band members, Ginny recording on the organ, and with a lot of help from Nancy, cellist and master of creating beautiful arrangements, we have been able to share music in worship, and keep working to expand how we can share the Good News online.

One day, Todd and I were talking and the Holy Spirit showed up. Todd told me he really loves the work he is doing to produce online worship and is excited to figure out what it will take to continue that while moving to in-person worship, when that is a possibility.

We talked. A lot. And we listened for where God was calling. As part of our conversations and in conversation with our staffing team (SPRC), Todd is going to continue in the tech role, and continue directing the choir, but let go of his leadership with the band. He has felt God

calling him to this exciting new work and is willing to say "yes".

We can't yet imagine who will fill his place, so we begin to pray about who and how and when. We start to think forward about what God would have us do and we seek to follow.

We've been praying everyday at 12:30, asking God to speak to us about how we follow Jesus' call in Mark 12:30-31 to love God and love our neighbors. Your prayers have begun to spark amazing changes in our congregation and the Holy Spirit has been moving in surprising ways.

We've been praying for how God could use our building, keep praying about that. Now we need to start praying about the right person or the right people to work with our youth, to lead music in a non-traditional worship service, and to share with us in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ. How can you pray? Who do you know? How can we find the best possible fit?

We are grateful that the Holy Spirit continues to work among us, calling us in new ways to live and serve.

With God's Peace and Jesus' Perseverance,

Pastor Cathy

p.s. To hear more about Todd and Lisa-Marie following God's new call in their lives, watch the online sermon from February 21, 2021. You can find it by going to www.youtube.com and searching for Algoma Blvd. UMC Oshkosh WI.

You can still join...



Together in Christ: A Lenten Study on Beloved Community
A Radical Inclusion and Racial Justice Resource
Rev. Dr. Hee-Soo Jung, Bishop.

The United Methodist Council of Bishops have committed to a priority goal of “Dismantling Racism,” and “Together in Christ,” offers an introduction to this important work. This is a foundational resource for the Wisconsin Conference vision of radical inclusion and racial justice this quadrennium.

Algoma Boulevard UMC's Social Justice Book Discussion will be leading this conversation **Thursdays through Lent, starting February 18 and ending April 8th, 6:00p.m.**

Each lesson includes a Scripture reading, a very short statement of intent, questions for conversation during the study, questions for personal reflection between sessions, closing prayer, and recommended resources.

To get the zoom link, please email pastor@abumc.org and the link will be sent to you. Additional resources including books, videos and other links will be shared each week.



Chuck, our building manager, has been painting a lot. Months ago he started in the

offices, and then moved to the main entrance and hallway.

Recently, he's been spending a lot of time repairing and painting the stairwells going down to the basement of Paine Hall. They aren't used often, and over the years, they've started to look neglected. There's nothing like some fixing and a fresh coat of paint to refresh a space.



Thanks, Chuck!



Sub-zero wind chills could not deter our awesome volunteers for our Feb. 11 meal at the Day By Day

Warming Shelter. The guests were treated to lasagna, pizza bake with sausage, pizza bake with pepperoni, garlic bread, mixed veggies, fresh fruit, brownies and chocolate chip bars! A shout-out to those who provided the food: Valois Brothers, Sara Dobish, Vickie Savinski, Sarah Thompson, Christy and Adam Grund, Dean Wesenberg, Carolyn Barthel and Nancy Levesque! Nancy, Dean, and Lisa-Marie served the grateful guests their meals. We look forward to the next opportunity for ABUMC to provide a hot, healthy, filling meal to the guests of the shelter.



Missions Reports

New ABUMC Recycling Program

Hopefully, we've all been doing our part to recycle those items accepted by our local recycling facility. Unfortunately, there are tons of products we use that have packaging we're unable to recycle locally. We are excited to be partnering with TerraCycle in their effort to eliminate waste. TerraCycle offers free recycling programs funded by brands, manufacturers and retailers to help people collect and recycle hard-to-recycle waste. Check out their website, www.terracycle.com, to find out more about what they do.

For our part, we will be a collection site for the Colgate Local Recycling Solutions program. We will collect oral care waste: toothpaste tubes and cartons, toothbrushes and their cartons, and dental floss containers. **Any brand** will be accepted. We will earn points for each shipment we turn in which will result in rewards for a nonprofit of our choice. So please save your oral care waste and drop it off in the TerraCycle bin located **outside the small door to the right of the main church doors**, facing the parking lot. Do you have earth-conscious friends? Let them know, too. Help us reduce waste and earn points for charity!



Warm Feet for Warriors



Have you always wanted to do something to help the men and women of the armed services but didn't know where to

start? How about with their feet? One of the most requested items from service members is socks! Soldiers' Angels is an organization committed to providing aid, comfort and resources to the military, veterans and their families. Its goal, between Feb. 1 and April 30, is to collect 10,000 pairs of socks for our deployed service members and veterans.

Let's help them reach that goal and show our love and support for these brave women and men. We are collecting **new socks, in their original packaging**, and in a variety of sizes. Crew and ankle socks are preferred. These are socks for them to wear when not in uniform, just to have something nice and warm and comfortable. Donations will be accepted at the church office until the end of March. Another option is to order socks from Amazon here: [Soldiers' Angels Warm Feet for Warriors Amazon Wish List](#). *Be sure to check the box to have the socks shipped directly to Soldiers' Angels and let Lisa-Marie know that you've sent some socks so that we can keep track of how many ABUMC has donated!*



INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

This month we are back to March, a year after COVID-19 started to affect our lives. Children's books are wonderful because of the artists who have opened our eyes to the dark and light that we experience in March. Can you remember all the different types of weather we have during March? The new books that will be described in this column are about March — the month of weather from winter to spring. There are also some caring animals.

One book takes place in Alaska where the musk ox live. They are HUGE. They have thick fur that is warm and cuddly. Author Jan Brett has written this book about *Cozy*. Now, I don't think about an animal the size of an elephant with very long, "to-the-ground" brown hair and with curling horns as being cozy. Do you? Read to find out who thought it was a good name.

Sometimes in March there are storms. I remember being in a big storm. We hid in a cave structure in which we stored vegetables and jars of food in the winter. When Sunday school starts again, find me and I'll tell you the story.

A related book is *I am the Storm*. The authors are Jane Yolen and her daughter, Heidi E.Y. Stemple. The book tells what the families did to stay safe during the storms. When the storms are over, it becomes calm and the children play. In the back of the book there are four short paragraphs about the storms and fires that parents can read to you.

After it rains, do you look for a rainbow? *Rain Before Rainbows* tells the story of a girl and her pet fox who go traveling. They travel when it is dark and when it is bright. During their sleep they have dreams *before* they wake up to the sun. Do you suppose they find a rainbow *before* they do something else? How many "befores" can you find in the book? The girl is very busy. The book is written by Smriti Prasadam-Halls.

Did you know that we have a new president as a leader for our country? He gives lots of speeches and has many meetings where he listens to others and also shares his ideas about helping our country. When he was a little boy, he stuttered. His parents found a teacher who helped him learn to speak so he didn't stutter.

I Talk Like a River is written by Jordan Scott, a stutterer, and Sydney Smith. The story is about a little boy who "talks like a river" (stutters). It tells how his father helped him.

We hope you would like to read these books. Katie will let you into the church and library. Also, Jan Nash or I could get the book you choose and bring it to you at the church or at your house. Contact Rachel at 920-231-7724 or bentonr1430@yahoo.com; or Jan Nash at 920-479-6016.

We wish you safety, wisdom about masks, and time to read.

— Rachel Benton



March 28, 2021

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.

Editors: Jaye Alderson, jayema@execpc.com, Cindy Overton, ceokini@gmail.com.

Pastor Cathy Weigand

Office telephone: 920-231-2800

Website: <http://abumc.org>

Office e-mail address: admin@abumc.org