



# 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*  
February 2021

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## Message Board

### 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>.



### Keeping In Contact

Katie will now be in 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](mailto:admin@abumc.org).

The previous emergency phone number has been discontinued

### Drive In Worship

**February 7th, 9am**

“See Souper-Bowl of Caring Article”

Bring something drink, your dog, invite a friend and see other members! Join Us!



## LENT: A season of preparation



It's a means, not an end.  
It's a road...  
with the Holy Resurrection  
as our destination.

*“Lent is a time of repentance, [fasting](#) and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.”*

(from [www.umc.org](http://www.umc.org))

As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, what can we do to focus on our relationship with God? How can we grow as disciples? How can we move beyond our building to love all of our neighbors?

During worship in Lent, we will focus on the exiles wandering in the wilderness as they made their way home. They spent 40 years wandering, grieving, feeling frustrated, angry, depressed, but also hopeful. Hope kept them moving toward the promised land.

We will acknowledge the difficulty of this pandemic and honor our feelings and experiences, while seeking to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We will focus on the hope of what comes next and how we move together toward the promised land. We will imagine with God who and how we can be. I look forward to this Lenten journey with you.

God's Strength and Grace,

*Pastor Cathy*

*Dear Church Family & Friends,*

This has been a year of significant change in nearly every aspect of our lives. When we closed the church building in March, we had no idea that we would be gone so long, that day to day life would look so different, and that our church family would be faced with challenges we couldn't begin to imagine.

As we look toward the beginning of Lent we have an opportunity to imagine who we can be and how we can be as we work to experience new life in Jesus Christ.

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays. It begins on [Ash Wednesday](#) and ends on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring temptation and preparing to begin his ministry.



## **Jan Nash Keeps the Library Well- Stocked**

Jan Nash brings a lifetime love of education and reading to her position helping to run the Open Door Library.

She was born in Wyoming and raised on a dairy farm. She received a degree in education from the University of Wyoming and taught all over the state. She also taught for a year for the Army in Okinawa, Japan.

She received a master's degree in library science from Kansas State Teachers College in Emporia. Subsequent jobs were in tutoring and school library work.

"Everything's been education and reading," she says. "I'm a librarian wherever I go."

She came to the Oshkosh area in 1972 when her then-husband got a job at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. After being divorced in 1990, she visited churches to find a new church family and new support system.

"Algoma Boulevard was the best fit and the most friendly, and I knew right away that's where I would stay," she says.

She has always been active in helping out around the church and says she is a "quiet-type librarian who lists to do things in the background." She has ushered, counted money and remained

active in United Methodist Women. She heads the UMW reading program.

When the Open Door Library was being established, she discovered a room piled high with books and, "being a librarian by nature," she says, she started sorting books, cataloguing them and doing bookwork.

She thinks it's great that ABUMC has a library that offers such a variety of books on the history of religion, study books, classes and children's books.

"It's important to develop good habits, thoughts and beliefs early on," she says. It's great to learn and grow.



**FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

# Missions

## Day By Day



The Day by Day Warming Shelter provides overnight shelter for up to 25 adults each year from Oct. 15 through April 15. In addition to shelter, the guests are served a meal each night, provided with laundry services, a shower and clothing items. The shelter staff also meets with guests to develop strategies for employment, housing, sobriety, education, etc., as a path to self-sufficiency.

ABUMC continues to partner with the shelter by occasionally providing the evening meal. On Dec. 30, we were able to provide a delicious meal of soups and chili, corn, fruit and bread. Thank you to Gail Sullivan, Valois Brothers, Christy and Adam Grund, Renee Fandel and Fran Price for preparing the food. Also, much gratitude to Fran Price, Rick Kalmus and Dean Wesenberg for serving the meal and cleaning up. The guests were very complimentary and grateful!

**Our next opportunity to serve** will be Thursday, Feb. 11. Anyone interested in cooking part of the meal or serving the guests from 5:45-7:30 p.m. should contact Lisa-Marie: at [kidsandyouth@abumc.org](mailto:kidsandyouth@abumc.org)

Did you know there's another way to volunteer at the warming shelter? Each day they are looking for people to take part in their hospitality tasks. Volunteers are needed for A.M. and P.M. shifts. Hospitality volunteers engage with the guests and assist the staff with shelter operations.

Volunteers on the P.M. shift (5:30 to 8:30 p.m) check in guests, manage the sign-in log, monitor the shower schedule, assist with laundry, and complete other tasks as needed. Volunteers on the A.M. shift (7 to 8 a.m.) assemble breakfast bags, take food inventory, complete remaining laundry, wash breakfast dishes, clean the kitchen, and complete other tasks as needed.

Attend a volunteer orientation to learn more. Sign up on their website. [Day By Day Warming Shelter](#)

Lisa-Marie is a hospitality volunteer, so you may contact her if you are curious what it's like!



## Feb. 7, 2021

We would hate for Covid-19 to prevent us from taking part in the annual Souper Bowl of Caring event, which coincides with the Super Bowl. So we hope you'll show up for Drive-In Worship at 9 a.m. Feb. 7 and bring a few healthy non-perishable food items, hygiene items, and/or a monetary donation for the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry.

In 2020, more than 5,000 groups collected more than \$10.6 million in monetary and food donations for hunger-relief charities across the country. More than \$163 million has been collected since Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990!

Now, more than ever, our community needs our help. Most-needed items are: canned vegetables and fruit, cereals, tuna, pork and beans, soups, pasta, tomato sauce, toilet paper, soap, shampoo, diapers, feminine products, shaving cream, and laundry detergent.

If you will be unable to join us for drive-in worship but would still like to contribute, checks for the food pantry, payable to ABUMC, may be received at the church until Feb. 15. **PLEASE INDICATE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IN THE MEMO LINE.** Non-perishable food items also may be dropped at the church office from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

### **Knock 'n Go**

Volunteers are needed for a mission that works with the local food pantry, called Knock 'n Go. People are needed every Tuesday to pack food from 8:30-10:30 a.m., and drivers are needed to deliver to homes in the area from 10 a.m. to noon. Additionally, they are in need of an

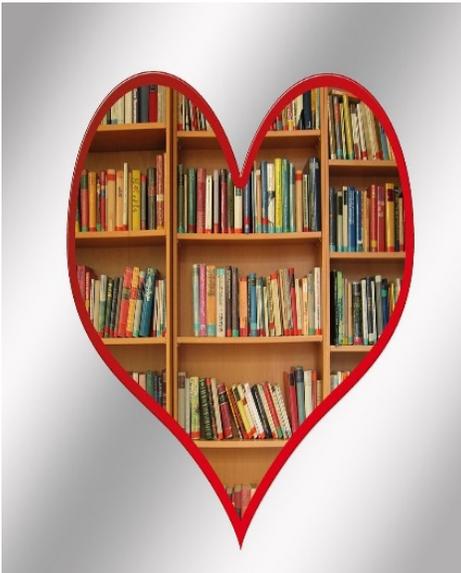
executive assistant an hour or two per week. This person would help manage and grow new relationships with social workers and counselors in the schools, pastors and churches, donors, the homeless shelter, etc.

Knock 'n Go was started by a local pastor, an unemployed mom, a wheelchair-bound man and a handful of volunteers who reached out to the elderly and disabled on COVID-19 lockdown, refugees, homeless, free-and-reduced lunch students in Oshkosh, and third-shift working single parents without cars who need to sleep during the limited food pantry hours. On average, 2,000 pounds of food is packed at the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry and delivered, along with diapers and feminine products, to 75 families by 12 volunteers every Tuesday. Contact Todd Svano, Knock 'n Go delivery manager/volunteer coordinator 612-578-2292



### **COVID-19 Memorial**

More than 6,000 individuals have lost their lives to COVID-19 in Wisconsin. We would like to honor their lives and have put a simple memorial in the front yard of the church. Our hope is that we will fill up the display with colorful ribbons in memory of those lost. 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.



## **Inside the Open Door**

While you are not yet able to visit the Open Door Library in person, anyone interested in borrowing materials can call Rachel Benton at 920-420-3121; or Jan Nash at 920-479-6016. They will arrange to meet you at the church for pickup or can deliver materials to local homes.

February is Black History Month, a month to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans. The Black Lives Matter movement has brought more awareness to the racism present in this country. How much protesting and violence does it take to make changes in our “equal rights for everyone” country?

The Open Door Library has many, many books on this topic and one more has been added: a picture book titled *Antiracist Baby*, by Ibram X. Kendi (J 305 Ken). He gives nine rules for

leading a conversation with young children, accompanied by two pages for parents at the end of the book. It has unusual illustrations.

Kendi also is the author of *How To Be An Antiracist*, the book the Adult Study Group currently is discussing.

The United Methodist Church also has many online links for reading on this topic. You can join many groups who are reading and growing in knowledge about racism and white privilege. In June the Council of Bishops asked United Methodists to read about racism and to work with children and others.

Suggested sites to visit are [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org), which offers many links that might be of interest to you.

The General Commission on Religion and Race ([www.gcorr.org](http://www.gcorr.org)) was established by the United Methodist Church in 1968. Among its offerings is the hub at [www.r2hub.org](http://www.r2hub.org). R2 stands indicates Religion and Race, and it provides resources, guides and downloadables for those seeking to engage and embrace cultural diversity and anti-racism.

**Study hard!**

— Rachel Benton and Jan Nash



UWM members will gather on their computers again for a meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 15. The program on “Prayer and Self Denial” will be led by Gail Sullivan. Please let Kate Yarbrow know if you would like to receive an invitation to the Zoom meeting. Contact Kate at [katey1812@gmail.com](mailto:katey1812@gmail.com) or 920-232-0833.

Members of United Methodist Women will deliver valentines to UMW members and church members who need a paper “hug.”

At their January Zoom meeting, Jan Nash presented a review of her favorite picks from the United Methodist Women’s Reading List. If you would like to participate in the reading program, contact Jan for a list of books and information about how the program works.

The selections for the Reading Program are interesting and range from challenging books on timely topics to books for youths and children. Jan can supply a list of books eligible for the program. Keep track of the books you read and turn in your list by Aug. 1. The books are available on the designated UMW shelves in the Open Door Library. You can arrange for someone to deliver or pick up the books for you.



**Attention, UMW members: The Reading Program books, response magazines, Master list, 2021 list and report forms are all available in the Open Door Library. All are welcome to join. If you have questions, call Jan at 920-479-6016.**



# CIRCUIT RIDER

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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