



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 **November 2021**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9 a.m.: The outdoor service is moving indoors starting 10/31/21. This informal service worships God through music provided by our band musicians. Children attend the first 15 minutes of worship including the children's message with Pastor Cathy and then go to Sunday School. The indoor service follows current CDC guidelines including masks for unvaccinated, and the local health department suggestion of masks for all. The windows and doors in the sanctuary will remain open for better airflow.

10 a.m.: Worship is **online** every week at 10:00 a.m. Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church Facebook Live or YouTube - search Algoma Blvd UMC.

10:30 a.m.: The traditional in-person service is in the sanctuary. This service has music provided by the organ and a soloist. Because we are indoors, we will continue to have distanced seating and windows will be open (so *bring blankets if cold*) for the safety of all present. We request masks for those unvaccinated and suggest them for all.

Advent Devotional and Activity

Advent is a time of waiting and expectation. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of Christ's birth, as well as anticipation of his second coming. After many troubling months, we will celebrate this Advent season looking ahead for positive signs and healing. We invite everyone to take part in a special Advent devotional activity provided by The Society of St. Andrew. The Society of St. Andrew is America's oldest and largest gleaning organization. They are a Christian organization which brings together people to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities.

We will be distributing a devotional booklet and coin bank to each family during worship in November and we encourage everyone to spend time reading the daily devotional throughout Advent, Nov. 28 through Dec. 24. Additionally, we will be asking everyone to give generously using their coin bank throughout the season. We will collect banks in January and forward the donation to the SoSA to help them continue their amazing work feeding the hungry and reducing the waste of food in our country.



Society of St. Andrew
GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY
EndHunger.org

Faith Factory

We have started this fall in Faith Factory Sunday School learning the fascinating stories from the Old Testament book of Genesis about Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Stories of unwavering faith, crushing heartache, amazing promises, steadfast devotion, harmful sibling rivalry, and ultimate forgiveness. As we move further into the Old Testament, we will review Moses' incredible journey and be reintroduced to Joshua, Rahab, and Ruth.



Calling All Ringers!

It's that time of year, folks! To register to ring for the Salvation Army, use this easy-to-navigate website to choose your date and spot to ring: registertoring.com.



Kroger and TerraCycle

Exciting news from Kroger and Pick-n-Save! They are the first retailer globally to offer a recycling program in partnership with TerraCycle. This is a way to recycle the flexible packaging from all of their private label brands, such as Simple Truth, Private Selection, and Kroger Brand. Packaging is collected, stored in a box, and shipped **FREE** to be recycled instead of ending up in the landfill. Since ABUMC already has a TerraCycle account, you may save up your empty packaging and bring it to church, where we will have a collection bin. Or you may easily set up your own account at TerraCycle.com. Points are earned with each shipment to be redeemed as donations to charitable organizations!





The annual church rummage sale has been postponed several times because of Covid.

Plans are being made for a spring 2022 rummage sale, hopefully in April or May.

All winter clothing items: coats, mittens, scarves, boots, hats, etc. are being donated to other groups such as Read School, immigrant need, requests from others, St. Vincent, etc. These items will be put to good use. Room is needed downstairs, AND those in need will benefit from items not appropriate for a spring sale.

Donations continue to be sorted. If you wish to donate, call the church office (920-231-2800) to arrange for drop off. However, please be thoughtful about donations as we are running out of storage space. Please sort your items before drop off. If you can hold delivery until February this will be helpful. Deliver winter items and things not appropriate for the church sale to other sites. Large furniture and items that show a lot of use or are dirty are not appropriate.

If you wish to help sort and price, contact Sandy Butcher (920-426-3114) or Jim Barthel (920-573-2811) to arrange for a time to be involved.

Annual Church Meeting

Monday, November 1st

7:30 p.m.

At church or via zoom.

Email pastor@abumc.org for zoom link.

Don't miss worship on November 21st

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church has a long history of walking with people as they explore God's call to ministry in their lives. Several years ago we affirmed Randy Hedge as he discerned his call and entered full time pastoral ministry as a Licensed Local Pastor in the Dakotas.

Recently, Kellyn Zehner, a sophomore at West High School began to discern her call into ministry. We have a beautiful opportunity to encourage her as she explores her call and walk the journey with her.

On November 21st, she will be preaching for the first time! Please be present to offer encouragement and support.



Operation Christmas Child

Why?

We do Operation Christmas Child for the people in different countries who can't get a Christmas present. These kids only get one Christmas present their entire lives and we need to make these presents for them and share God's love!



When?

- Place donations in the bin labeled Operation Christmas Child in the hallway.
- Items can be dropped off Nov. 1st - Nov. 20th (must have by am on Nov./21st)
- I will lead Sunday school with packing Sunday November 21, 2021 during service.

What can you do?

Please give us donations to put in the shoeboxes

- notebooks, pens/pencils, coloring supplies, small toys and accessories and others things from this QR code
- We can also accept donations for shipping shoeboxes.



Winter Camp January 7-9th

Looking for winter outdoor fun, indoor fireplace, games, singing, and getting to know new people?

Winter Camp is the place for you! Camp Lucerne is a United Methodist camp located on Lake Lucerne near Wautoma.



Since 1983 people ages 2-80 have gathered for winter camp to enjoy sledding, cross country skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, hiking, ice

fishing, frisbee golf, games, puzzles, crafts, good food, and sitting by the fire enjoying the camaraderie of old friends and new.

Each cabin is heated and equipped with bathrooms, showers and a fireplace. There are two single beds per room. Bedding and towels are provided. There are also fireplaces in Ridgewood Lodge, where we meet for many of our activities, and in the Milton Geise Building, where each of our five meals is served.

You are Invited to Share in the Fun! Join us for a fun filled weekend and an opportunity to develop closer relationships with other camping families. More information at www.abumc.org

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Our leadership teams have been working together as we prepare to launch into a new and vital year of mission and ministry.

It is our prayer that Covid numbers continue to come down as people remain cautious, careful, and respectful of the wellbeing of self and others.

The Stewardship Team has been reflecting on our fondest memories of church and thinking about one word that describes our hope for the congregation as we move out of covid and into an exciting new year of loving God and loving all of our neighbors.

The team shared words like reunite, community, serve, share, and gather.

What are some of your best memories?
What word would you use to describe your hope for the coming year?

We have each experienced something at ABUMC that has connected us to God and others. But the gifts we give and the work we do isn't just for us. We are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in all the ways that we can.

Be looking for a mailing from the Stewardship Team in early November that shares more hopes, dreams, and plans and challenges all of us to participate in the exciting possibilities before us.

With God's Joy,

Pastor Cathy



Inside the Open Door

Children: Hello, Children! What comes to mind when you turn the calendar page to see this month's dates? Daylight Saving Time, Veterans Day, birthdays, appointments, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Giving Day are listed on my calendar.

In the children's section of the library is the small book *In November*, by Cynthia Rylant and illustrated by Jill Kastner (J FIC Ryl) , that highlights other occurrences in November. Even if you have looked at this book before, you can enjoy it again. Perhaps you could illustrate something you look forward to in November. Add your name and leave it on the library desk so we can show it to others.

Thanks for Thanksgiving, by Julie Marques (J Fic Mar), shows ways other children are thankful for this season. When you take time to thank God for happy experiences before you go to sleep, do the pictures show things you like to do and for which you are thankful?

A new addition to our library is *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, by Sally Lloyd-Jones and illustrated by Jago (J220 Llo). The book is written especially for children. Only some of the stories of the Bible are included.
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However, the ones we would designate as “important” and that point toward Jesus are there.

Lloyd-Jones has condensed each story and retold them so they can be understood and enjoyed by children. The introductory section is helpful to understand the style and purpose of the stories.

Youths and Adults:

Several new selections displayed on the library table, including some from the UMW reading program, are featured.

We are more concerned that those included in the new listing for United Methodist Women readers be returned within two weeks.

Jan Nash will review all the new UMW books at the November program.

- Kate DiCamillo has done it again! Her latest book, *The Beatryce Prophecy*, is predicted to become a classic. She won the Newbery Award for *The Tale of Despereaux* and *Flora and Ulysses* — and the artist Sophie Blackall has won the Caldecott Award for *Finding Winnie* (as in Pooh) and *Hello Lighthouse*. (In case you aren't familiar with these very important awards: Newbery is for best story and Caldecott is for best artwork in children's literature. And there really is only one “r” in Newbery.) These two are the perfect team for creating this magical loving adventure story.

The monks in the Order of Chronicles of Sorrowing are afraid of the goat named Answelica. She has sharp teeth, a very hard head and is mean. One morning when Brother Edik goes to feed the goat, he finds a sick and dirty child sleeping beside her and gripping the goat's ear. The girl doesn't know who she is or where she came from — only her name. And she can read and write — impossible to believe! There is a prophecy that a child — a girl — will unseat the king. The king's men are searching for her; she is in grave danger. Will the prophecy be fulfilled? Reviewers of this book, both professional and ordinary, can't give enough praise for the story, the writing and the medieval tapestry-like artwork. Adults will want to read it, too.

You are always welcome in the Open Door library. See Jan Nash or Rachel Benton if you have questions or suggestions.





United Methodist Women
The next meeting of United Methodist Women is at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 15, in the Harmony Room.

Everyone is welcome to attend UMW meetings and events. Membership is open to any woman who wants to participate in the missions of the church.

“Books Worth Reading” will be the program for the November meeting. Jan Nash will tell us about some of the books in the UMW 2022 reading program. Members can participate in the program by reading just a few books and the *Response* magazine. Jan will explain how it works. Even if you opt out of the reading program, there is sure to be a book or two on the list that will interest you.

Barb Diener-Blumer will lead a brief Pledge Service. Please consider a generous donation to support the UMW budget. In addition to administration of the national organization and programs for the local unit, pledges support missions for women, children and youths throughout the world. Local missions include the Oshkosh Teacher’s Closet, Northcott Neighborhood Center, Christine Ann Center, Boys & Girls Club, and Day by Day Warming Shelter.

These charities all fill important needs during difficult times.

An important order of business for the meeting is election of officers. The slate of officers for 2022 is: President, Sandy Butcher; Vice President, Kate Yarbro; Secretary, Rose Bohlman; Treasurer, Barbara Diener-Blumer. Also being elected are Mission Coordinators in five areas. These include: Spiritual Growth, Verna Funke; Christian Social Concerns, Sharon Kardoskee; Education and Interpretation, Sandi Challoner; Secretary of Program Resources, Jan Nash. There is still an opening for Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach.

Among items to be discussed is our annual Cookie Walk. It’s not too early to set aside some time to bake for this annual December event. Plans are still uncertain, so keep watching for the date and time. If you don’t bake, this will be a great opportunity to get some home-baked goodies.

Also watch for information about the annual UMW Christmas luncheon in December. Members will gather just for fun at the Garden View Restaurant at Evergreen Retirement Community. Date and time to be announced.

The schedule of activities for 2022 will be included in our UMW booklet, which will be available at the Nov. 15 meeting. After that, you can pick up a booklet in the UMW corner in Paine Hall.

Cindy Overton helps bring you Circuit Rider every month

For Cindy Overton, Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church is a spiritual home. “I have met friends there,” she says. “It’s a community. I feel freer to express my faith there than in other areas of the community and the world.”

She also is continuing a family legacy of supporting the parish. Her grandparents were William and Una Rae Utter. Her mother’s sister, Doris Otto, sang in the choir and helped with the neighborhood center on Tuesdays where older people could socialize and have a lunch served afterward.

For Cindy’s mother, Pat Overton, “My mom’s faith was important, and she remembered going to watch movies in Paine Hall as a child,” Cindy says. “She liked the church and the overall sense of community. She also worked in the kitchen for the neighborhood center.”

After serving in the U.S. Navy for six years, Cindy returned to Oshkosh. At ABUMC, she was a youth leader for the high school group for about five years in the early 1990s. “I liked to relate to them,” she says. “Youths keep you young at heart. I had a great time getting to know them at their level.” She says the gatherings were less formal than Sunday School classes and included time to get together, do activities and hold little lessons along with Sarah Thompson.

“Those young adults made an impact on me just as much as I hope I made on them. They were one of my best times in the church. One of the things I cherish is when I still see some of those kids — now grown — and catch up. We still consider ourselves friends and can talk because we had a good relationship.”

She also helped out with Wednesday Night Alive and chaperoning high school activities. For the past 6½ years, she has done layout and design

for Circuit Rider. She had just lost her job and was looking for something to do until she had another. Because she had been the classified advertising manager at the Oshkosh Northwestern for 13 years, helping with the newsletter was a natural fit.

And although she now works as a pre-service advocate at Aurora Health Care, she is still designing the newsletter. “I thought I would only do it for a couple of years, but ...” she says. “I’ve always designed advertisements. I like laying things out and bringing in some creativity. Also feeling like I’m doing something for the church.”

In the community, she has worked with the Oshkosh Area Humane Society Pet Therapy Program since 1995, visiting homes with her friendly pets. “You make someone’s day who is shut in,” she says. “Yet I’m getting something out of it, too. It makes your day as well.”

She has had many touching experiences and is keeping notes with the hopes of writing a book about them. “You’ll never forget these people,” she says. One especially touching time was in Evergreen Manor’s Alzheimer’s memory unit. One resident there was uncommunicative and lost “in her own world,” Cindy says. Then her hand reached out to pet Cindy’s dog Sneakers. “Nice dog,” the woman said. “Then she went back into her own little world,” Cindy says. “That is an experience you don’t forget.”



Cindy and Bailey

HOW CAN WE CONNECT WITH YOU?

Newsletters, emails and other places for information:

Each month, the church publishes this 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.



**Our congratulations to
Paul and Samantha (Hart) Raspel
on their recent wedding!**

**Paul grew up at ABUMC and Sam is
our new Youth Coordinator.**

Also, congrats to our former Church Administrator,
Katie Madlom, for her amazing photography
and her rapidly growing business,
Cattail Creek. Beautiful work, Katie!