

## RECONNECTING



WITH FAITH AND CHURCH FAMILY

[ABUMC.ORG](http://ABUMC.ORG) August 2021

*Dear Church Family and Friends,*

Earlier this summer, we were out at the lake and saw a turtle mama laying eggs on our shoreline. The next day we covered the eggs with metal mesh and put a couple of logs at the ends to protect them from raccoons and other predators.

We looked up how long it takes for painted turtle eggs to hatch and left a sign so that people know what it is and when something exciting is going to happen.

Through the seasons of the church, we have times for celebration, growth as disciples, preparation, and repentance. The season of Advent, for example, includes the four Sundays before Christmas and we often talk about it as “waiting with expectation”. During that season we wait for the birth of the Christ Child, for hope, peace, love and joy. We ponder Mary waiting for the birth of her child and capture some of what it means to wait with expectation. It is a season that pulls us in to God’s holy presence and helps us be more deeply connected with God’s work in our world and in our lives. Waiting can be holy.



In the seasons of our individual lives there are other times when we find ourselves in Advent - waiting with expectation. For me, awaiting the adoption of our kids from the Philippines was an extended period of advent. Waiting to hear back from an offer made on a house or a job interview can feel like advent. Waiting for a trip, a phone call, a resolution... How have you experienced Advent? (Continue on next page)



We are preparing for the annual fall start-up celebration at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church. We have a list of great ideas and we are excited about the possibilities. But, because of the Covid-19 Delta variant, we are unable to know now if we'll be able to do all that we hope to do then. We will do the work of planning and preparing knowing that God is present with us in our expectation, in the waiting that can seem endless, and in the hope, peace, love and joy that comes with waiting for an experience of God that changes our lives.

God helps us navigate the waiting and the longing, and helps us grow in faith as we find new ways to love God and love all of our neighbors.

Let's pray through this season with love, peace, hope and joy, trusting that God is with us through it all.



With God's Grace and Peace,

Pastor Cathy

## The Youth Mission Team

Has returned from their work in Lorain, Ohio with amazing experiences and lots of stories to tell. God is so good!

Look for more pictures next month and for an opportunity to hear their stories coming up!



For all of the people who have helped with recent projects...

Thank you!





ABUMC participated in the Warm Feet for Warriors mission back in April and collected 205 pairs of socks for the men and women of our armed services. The overall goal for the project, coordinated by Soldiers' Angels, was 10,000 pairs. That goal was blown out of the water, with 63,535 pairs collected!! How exciting that we were able to contribute to this amazing mission!

## Free Community Meal

Our spaghetti dinner to-go in April generated funds for us to begin a free meal ministry and our first event will take place Monday, Aug. 30, from 5-6 p.m.! Our team will prepare and serve a meal for our community, free of charge, every month on the last Monday. This first dinner will be a grab-and-go setup in the parking lot, but eventually we'll serve a sit-down dinner in Paine Hall. Anyone is invited and welcome to take part. We need you to help make this outreach a success. Volunteers will be needed for meal prep, serving and cleanup, as well as distribution of flyers and helping to get the word out. Please contact Lisa-Marie at [connections@abumc.org](mailto:connections@abumc.org) or 231-2800, ext. 5, and tell us how you wish to share your gifts in service to our neighbors.

## I Do, But How?



Often, people would like to volunteer but don't know how to get started. There are opportunities for everyone — you just have to find them. A great way to do that is to sign up on the Volunteer Oshkosh website, [www.volunteeroshkosh.org](http://www.volunteeroshkosh.org). You are able to indicate your individual interests and then they will email you when opportunities come up, based on your choices. Maybe you would like to volunteer with an organization on a regular basis, or perhaps for one-time events. There are endless options because there are endless needs. For instance, there are a number of ways you can help out at events for kids and families this summer through the City of Oshkosh Parks Department. Or, you can offer to use your talents once a week at the Christine Anne Center. You may be apprehensive because you're not sure what to expect, but you'll never know if you don't try. It could turn out to be one of the best things you've ever done!

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is,  
**What are you doing for others?"**  
— Martin Luther King, Jr

## Plant Pals

Let's show some love to our neighbors at UW-O by gifting incoming students with a plant! The Wesley Foundation asks us to join Lutheran Campus Ministry in their annual *Welcome to Campus* ministry to students. They are looking for donations of **small** potted plants. Succulents are very popular and easy to care for! Please label your gift with the name of our church and include care instructions. Plants need to be delivered to church **by Sept. 1** and we will deliver them to the university!



## Multi-Gen Mission

We are hoping to send a mission group to the UMCOR Sager Brown Supply Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana, in 2022. The tentative dates are March 27-April 1. The depot includes a 48,000- square-foot warehouse for receiving, sorting, packing and shipping supplies for disaster relief. Volunteers might work in the depot or in a community project, such as housing rehabilitation or providing food for seniors. Cost is \$255 per person, which includes food and dormitory sleeping accommodations. A one-bedroom apartment is available for an additional

\$255 fee. The cost to travel to Baldwin will be the responsibility of the individual. Spots are filling up quickly at Sager Brown for 2022, so we need to confirm our group reservation ASAP. Please contact Lisa-Marie at [connections@abumc.org](mailto:connections@abumc.org) or 231-2800, ext, 5, with questions or if you are interested in joining us.

## FALL CLEAN UP LAKE LUCERNE

Join us for a week of fun and hard work at Lake Lucerne. Tasks may range from cleaning cabins (washing windows, sweeping floors), bringing in the pier, cutting down trees and brush, roof repairs and laying new sidewalk.

This is a great time of year to enjoy the changing colors of the trees and the last of the warm weather. Volunteers will stay in the cabins and enjoy meals and devotions together.

Dates: Sept. 26 to Oct. 1. Cost: \$180.

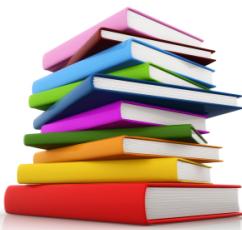
Message [connections@abumc.org](mailto:connections@abumc.org) for more information.

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**CIRCUIT RIDER ARTICLES DUE BY  
15<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH TO JAYE**

**Jayema3@gmail.com**

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## INSIDE THE OPEN DOOR

### FOR CHILDREN

“We Are Still Here!,” by Traci Sorell (J 973 Sor), has a subtitle explaining it exactly: “Native American Truths Everyone Should Know.” The author is a member of the Cherokee Nation and has worked for Native advocacy groups. This book looks like a picture book but has big words and difficult concepts for the young. Examples: assimilation, allotment, termination, relocation, self-determination and sovereign resurgence. Adults, also, will learn a lot from the information here. Racial justice is not only for African Americans, but should be for all, including indigenous people, Asians and Hispanics. The illustrations contribute to the inclusiveness. This book needs to be shared and discussed for understanding the concepts.

“Twenty-One Steps,” by Jeff Gottesdelf (J 973 Got), is another picture book needing adult discussion when reading. Subtitle: “Guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.” This book is beautifully written and illustrated and highly recommended by reviewers. It gives the history of Arlington National Cemetery and honors the soldiers who stand guard there. However, it talks about war and death and sorrow. If you have been searching for how to explain Memorial Day and the importance of ceremony, this book may serve your needs.

— Jan Nash and Rachel Benton



Rock the Block is a program to revitalize Oshkosh neighborhoods. Volunteers do a variety of jobs such as lawn care, trimming, weeding, mulching, planting, pressure washing and gutter cleaning. Other exterior improvements may include window, siding and door installation and garage, fence and porch repairs and painting. Projects happen on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sign up at [habitatoshkosh.org](http://habitatoshkosh.org)

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## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

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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

**Misson 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*



**Retired pastor Chuck Davis became interested in the ministry early. As a teen in Marshfield, Wisconsin, he was involved in his church's Methodist Youth Fellowship. While attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, he was actively involved with the Wesley Foundation and served as president.**

He was then inspired to go to seminary.

He was most interested in “caring for the people,” he says. “I did a lot of my chaplaincy with people in marginal situations.” His ministry was varied and far-reaching. Chuck first served in two parishes in Wisconsin; as chaplain at Hazelden, a drug and alcohol center, in Center City, Minnesota; at a treatment center in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; and as chaplain Methodist Hospital’s drug and alcohol center in Omaha, Nebraska. While in Omaha, Chuck became a certified professional chaplain.

He and his wife, Gini, wanted to return to Wisconsin, so Chuck took a job as a chaplain at Winnebago Mental Health Institute in Oshkosh for two years.

Then, for the next 25 years, he was a mental health therapist at a number of places around

the state. He became certified as a sex offender evaluator and treatment provider and worked with people in the sex offender units at Oshkosh Correctional. He also returned to parish work at Covenant United Methodist Church in Fond du Lac and Waukau United Methodist Church in Waukau. During this time, he was a consultant to churches around the state, helping them identify their mission and ministry priorities.

He now has officially been retired for eight years.

He and Gini joined ABUMC five years ago. “I like the people, I like Cathy and the mission focus of the church,” he says. “I have provided pastoral services to supplement her ministry, working with shut-ins and hospitalized people.”

He also still presides at funerals, primarily for unchurched people, and provides pulpit supply for ministers who go on vacation. While he took the last two years off because of the COVID-19 pandemic and because of Gini’s death on May 21, he again began presiding at funerals in July.

Chuck still is keeping busy. He has always loved the water and used to sail and do power boating. He is leaving soon for a family trip to Florida, a tradition for 34 years. “All the babies, including eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, have been there by their first or second birthday,” he says.

And he has been devoted to watching his grandchildren’s baseball and soccer games for the last 28 years.

“Our youngest granddaughter is heading for Edgewood College in Madison this fall, and will be playing soccer for the college. I suspect I’ll be doing some traveling for that, too!” he says.

# CIRCUIT RIDER

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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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month), comments and suggestions are welcome and appreciated.

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