



# ALGOMA BOULEVARD UNITED • METHODIST • CHURCH

## Help Oshkosh Kids

Many Oshkosh residents are unaware that **42.1%** of students enrolled in the Oshkosh Area School District are eligible for the free or reduced lunch program. That is why the Back-To-School Fair is so important. Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church has been invited to take part once again in the 23rd annual fair. This year we have two different ways to participate. You may purchase a \$25 department store gift card, or you can take a slip from the missions display in the church hallway with suggested items to purchase for a specific student. The students also will be provided with school and hygiene supplies to begin the school year with confidence.

The aim of the fair is to assist more than 1,000 low-income families with kids in our school system this year. Let's help make that a reality! Please consider purchasing a \$25 gift card or clothing suggested on the fair slips and bring to church by **Aug. 1**. *And if you purchase a gift card through our SCRIP program, our church gets the added benefit of receiving a rebate!*



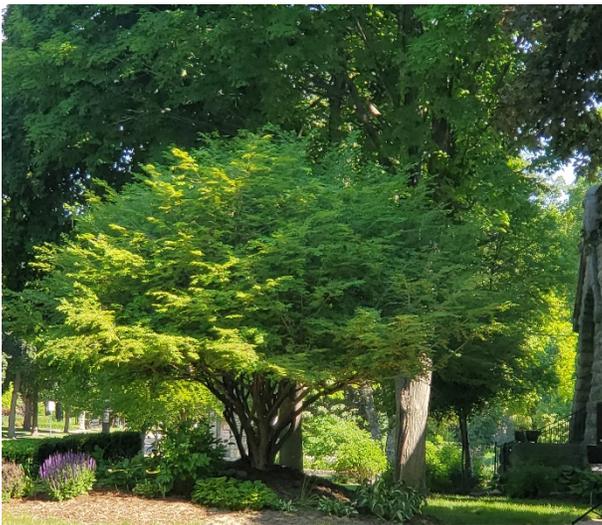
## Mission Trip is On!!

A small but strong and motivated crew is heading out on Sunday, July 18, to Lorain, Ohio, for the youth mission trip! After missing out on the 2020 trip, we are stoked to get back at it! Please pray for a week of fun, faith-building, connections, hope, encouragement, compassion, partnership, enlightenment and selflessness. Our prayer is that the Holy Spirit will be on fire in all of us as we work, play, worship, connect with the community members and Next Step Ministries staff, and represent our church. Your continued support is so appreciated.



## *Holy Water!*

On a hot and sunny Saturday morning, the Oshkosh Water Warriors headed out on the WIOUWASH Trail to walk 6K (3.7 miles) to raise money to provide life-giving water to those who aren't as fortunate as we are. Six kilometers is the average distance people in the developing world walk for water every day. Women and children, especially girls, spend hours every day hauling water that isn't even safe to drink. But they have no other choice. This year, our church decided to join World Vision's annual **6K For Water**. Our team, through generous donations and some matching funds, raised \$3,845!!! That will help bring clean water to 77 people! We hope you will join our team next year on May 21 as we walk for water.



## SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:00 am Service on The Lawn  
*(Unless it rain, then Drive-in Worship)*

9:10 am Children's Sunday School

10:00 am Online Service

10:30 am Traditional Service in Sanctuary

Revs. Mike & Cathy Weigand  
invite you to their  
Marathon Anniversary Party  
Celebrating 26.2 years.



Saturday, July 24th  
10:00-noon

w6203 Alpine Drive,  
Wautoma

**Feel free to bring...**

Sun screen, life jackets, beach towels,  
kayaks, floaties, fishing gear, chairs (we  
have some), and whatever else you need  
for a lake adventure.



**Food and Drinks**

We'll have church coffee hour stuff!

coffee,  
lemonade,  
salty and sweet.

If you want to  
bring bars or  
cookies let us  
know by  
emailing  
[pastor@abumc.org](mailto:pastor@abumc.org)



Our new website will launch in early July.

If you go to [www.abumc.org](http://www.abumc.org) and nothing  
pops up, the old site is transitioning to  
the new site.

The transition will likely take 2-3 days, so  
please be patient.

Thanks to our Office Administrator,  
Katie, who spent endless hours working  
on it, and the many people who gave  
feedback to make it great.



As we continue to watch vaccine  
numbers rise, we will lift some  
restrictions for worship.

If you are fully vaccinated, you are  
welcome to decide if you will wear a  
mask in worship or not.

If you are not vaccinated, please  
continue to wear a mask for the safety of  
yourself, children and others who can't  
be vaccinated.



In response to God's call in her life, Lisa Marie has given up her role as the Director of Youth Ministries. She continues to work with Children's Ministries, and has

Dear Friends,  
The Holy Spirit has been powerfully present as we've prayed together daily, for more than a year and a half. Taking time each day to pray Mark 12:30-31 has shifted how we order our days and how we think about the ministry we do together.

*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.*

*Love your neighbor as yourself.*

How often have you experienced God's presence in a moment when the scripture came to mind and helped you know your way forward?

How often has your prayer time propelled you to action?

How often has God pushed you to live your faith in new ways?

This is our hope in prayer...

- That as individuals, we can grow as disciples.

- And as a congregation, we can focus our time, our resources, and our spirits on loving God and loving our neighbors.

If you have struggled to maintain a daily prayer time (as I have at times in my life), begin again. Recommit yourself. If you fail... begin again, and again, and again.

In addition to our daily prayers, please add a more targeted prayer.

**Pray for our current and future staff.**

added the role of Connections Coordinator. She is working to find new ways to connect us in our community in mission, in service, and in sharing God's love. Pray for her and encourage her.

Todd continues in his role as Choir Director (when we can have a choir again) and has added the responsibilities of technology and production. He has been working tirelessly to produce online worship with excellence. As he's lived his way into this new ministry, he has been energized. In order to continue that work, he no longer be the band leader in our non-traditional worship service. Please pray for Todd as he keeps striving to bring our online worship experience to the next level, and for his work with the ABUMC Choir.

Which brings us to our final prayer request. **We need to hire our next Youth Director as well as a Worship Leader/Band Director for the 9:00 worship service.**

As we pray about loving God with all we are and all we've got, and loving all of our neighbors, also pray about the best possible people to fill these roles. People who are equipped, passionate, faithful, and creative. People who celebrate diversity, love working on a team, and lead others to know God's love and grace.

Will you please pray with me? If you hear God nudging you with names of people who might be the right fit, please email [pastor@abumc.org](mailto:pastor@abumc.org)

With the joy of God's love, Pastor Cathy

# Inside the Open Door

I feel as informed Christian youths and adults, we need to have an awareness of mission ministries and needs within our world. Another thought is to realize it's never too late to be involved in mission activities.

- A related book takes place in Greenville, South Carolina, at Triune Mercy Center. **“Weight of Mercy, A Novice Pastor in the City Streets”** is a personal story by Deb Richardson-Moore (360 Ric) who decided when she was a mother and happily married to Vince that she would study to become a pastor. Her first assignment was to Triune, an old mission church located in a very poor drug-infested, homeless section of Greenville. She had dreams of counseling and changing the lives of the people who came to the center for food, clothing, meals, washing machine, telephone and worship (although that may be laying in the back pew snoring).

Some of the people who attended were members when it was a thriving congregation. They were still interested in helping to maintain its services of mission. Neighboring churches also would help by providing meals or working with the clothing. The book includes stories about the lives of people who come to Triune and the staff who serves as well as Pastor Deb's challenges and inner thoughts. How did it evolve into the mission and ministry she envisioned? It reads like a novel. The book is located in the UMW section, *leadership*.

- The next selection is also a UMW Youth selection. It is located under the heading *Nurturing for Community*. **“We Kiss Them with Rain”** is by Yuthi Ntshingila (Fic Nts). She was born and raised in South Africa. This story centers around the lives of 14-year-old Mvelo, her mother Zola (who has AIDS) and Zola's aunt, Skwiza. Both Zola and Mvelo were very poor. They were denied any more community help and had to live in a shack village and go through the garbage of rich people to find scraps of food. Skwiza was able to provide some

help after Zola died. Not wanting her baby to live in the shacks, Mvelo put her baby on a rich couple's doorstep and walked away, praying to God for the baby's safety. How did Mvelo survive? What do you think happened to the baby? Who was Nonceba? This is a story of both tragedy and humor and a “quick read.”

**Will you please look for any Open Door books you may have borrowed? Please return them so others can enjoy them.**

**Attention, parents, grandparents and teachers:** The Open Door Library has quality books for you to read with or to your child, grandchild or class. There are many Bible reference books and Bible stories. The other books, while not religious in nature, are selected for Christian values such as love, fairness, sharing, helpfulness, honesty and self-confidence. There are books about people who are important in our country for these qualities. There are board books, picture books and chapter books. They are reviewed by professionals and private people before purchasing.

Reading to young people is very, very important for growth, vocabulary development and personal relationships. Check us out!!

## Examples:

**“You Belong Here,”** by M.H. Clark (J FIC Cla), is a rhyming picture book explaining how things belong in their places in the world including the child belonging in the family. “Some creatures were made for the land, or the air, and others were made for the sea; each creature is perfectly home right there in the place it belongs to be.” The illustrations add meaning to the poems perfectly. The author has won several awards and it's easy to see why.

**“Love Your Neighbor,”** by Melody Carlson (J Fic Car), also is a rhyming picture book that teaches children how to conduct themselves as Jesus would have done. The little boy has a neighbor boy who is difficult to get along with, a “real pain.” He dreams of other neighbors that would be easier to love, like a bear, a whale, monkeys or a moose. How can he love this boy like Grandma says he should?

— **Rachel Benton and Jan Nash**



## MIKE SULLIVAN

For more than 25 years, Mike Sullivan has been bringing his gift of music to Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church as a member of Praise Band and other occasions.

He is from Sparta, Wisconsin. He met Gail in Nashville and they married in 1977.

They moved back to Wisconsin for Mike to take a job in Wausau selling commercial insurance for lumber companies. They transferred to Colorado for a year with the same company before deciding to return to Wisconsin.

Settling in Oshkosh, they rented a house just two doors down from ABUMC. Gail was raised Methodist, so they attended a service.

“Delivering a bread to new attendees was a big thing then,” Mike says. He says a church volunteer would visit new attendees, say hello and thanks for coming, and offer a gift of bread.

“Mac McDaniel delivered bread that day,” Mike says. “He was a big, friendly guy. It touched us. We were excited to become members of that church.”

He also was struck by the beauty and architecture of the sanctuary, especially, and the good acoustics it offered.” You love playing there. It’s a wonderful place to play,” he says.

He and the family — Gail, son Ryan and daughter Maggie — soon joined the congregation in July 1989.

Because of his good introductory experience, he also delivered bread to newcomers for some time.

Around 1994, Gordon Lind wanted to start a band for a new type of service at ABUMC. While Mike did a lot of songwriting and played a little bit at home, he had no experience with a band. He was hesitant, but “Gail volunteered me for that band!” he says.



He struggled with the new format and didn’t think he could go through with performing. Ben Begley, another member of the new band, talked

him into it. “I’m not going up there to play alone,” Mike says he told him. “It’ the best thing that ever happened to me. I couldn’t let him down.”

His music has endured. After retiring four years ago, he now is a full-time musician, keeping busy songwriting and playing gigs all over the state. From June 1 to Aug. 31 this year, he has close to 40 shows scheduled, and the list can be viewed at

[www.michaelsullivanmusician.com](http://www.michaelsullivanmusician.com).

“Gotta keep going, gotta keep creating,” he says.

He is looking forward to performing music again and joining in fellowship at ABUMC. “The people we go to church with have been some of the very best,” he says. “So many men and women over the years that I admire immensely and have made a huge impact on me.”

“All these people — some who haven’t even been here for so many years — I remember them very well and they’ve helped me be a better person. It’s all about the fellowship.”

# 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).



## Fall Cleanup at 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.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT CHURCH LIFE:

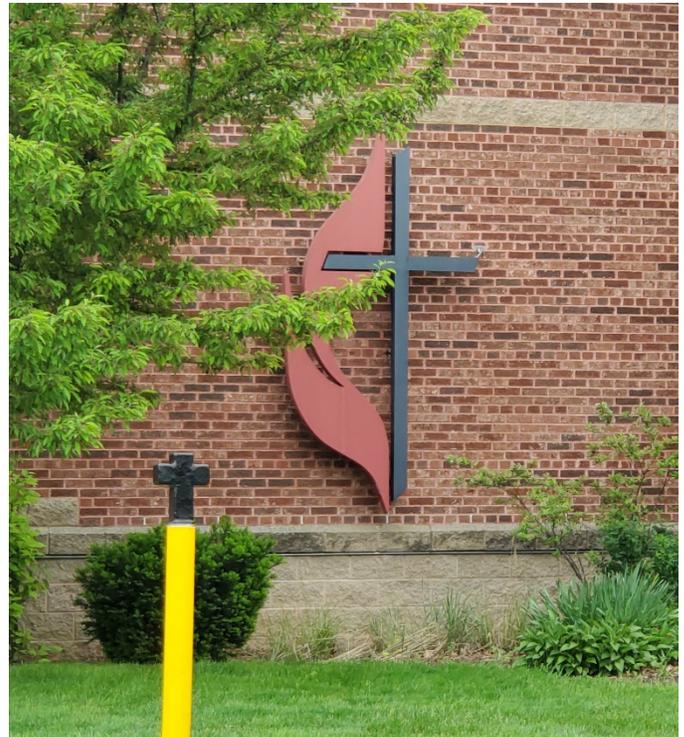
If you have a special need or wish to have someone be in touch with you please note it on the attendance/offering envelope or contact Katie. Church office 920-231-2800 or [admin@abumc.org](mailto:admin@abumc.org)

## ONLINE GIVING

Is available through a line on our website at [abumc.org](http://abumc.org). If you need help please contact the church office.

## ABUMC.ORG

Find us online at [abumc.org](http://abumc.org) for events announcements and other information. We're also on FACEBOOK as Algoma Boulevard 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.*

# CIRCUIT RIDER

Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church  
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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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