



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.*

abumc.org **April 2023**



Important Announcement

District Superintendent Rev. Park Hunter met with Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church's Staff-Parish Relations Committee to let us know that Rev. Cathy Weigand will be reappointed to the Madison First UMC effective July 1, 2023. Pastor Cathy shared that she has accepted this new appointment and, while sad to leave, is excited to use her gifts as the lead pastor there.

Although we will miss Pastor Cathy, we are grateful for her leadership over the past years and will work with her on a smooth transition over the coming months.

Our SPRC talked with D.S. Park Hunter about the clergy needs of ABUMC and what priorities we have for our next pastor. The DS will be meeting with church leadership again when they have information about our new pastor. We will announce our new pastor as soon as the appointment has been made.

Please pray for our congregation, our church leaders, and Cathy and Mike as they prepare to say goodbye.

Please also pray for ABUMC's new pastor, the Bishop and cabinet as they prayerfully consider our next pastor.

We know prayer is a powerful way forward.



Pastor Cathy is moving and we're getting a new pastor? How does that work?

It was announced in worship on March 12th that Wisconsin Bishop, Rev. Hee-Soo Jung appointed Pastor Cathy to serve as the Lead Pastor at First UMC, Madison, starting in July.

When pastors are ordained in the United Methodist Church, they are expected to itinerate. That means they go and serve wherever the Bishop sends them.

When a Bishop sends a pastor somewhere it is called an appointment. An appointment is officially for one year at a time.

Pastor Cathy is in her 9th year serving at Algoma Boulevard UMC. That means the Bishop has appointed her each of those years to serve with us.

The goal of the Bishop and the cabinet is to match the gifts and graces of the particular pastor with the ministry needs of a congregation.

Knowing that no two pastors are alike and no two congregations are alike, over time the combination of pastors and people helps grow a broad base of developed and developing ministries.

While Bishops make appointments, they incorporate a consultative process outlined in *The Book of Discipline* (our book of rules) that includes district superintendents, pastors and staff/parish relations committees (SPRC). The needs and desires of clergy are considered, says Missouri Bishop Robert Schnase, but "the mission of the church comes first."

How does it work?

Early in each new year the Bishop and cabinet begin to look at what pastors are retiring, what pastors need to move, and

what other considerations are going on in churches throughout the state.

They prayerfully look at churches that need new pastors and consider what those churches need in their next pastor.

When they discern where God is at work, and feel like they have a good match, a call is made to a pastor telling them that they have 24 hours to consider a new appointment, and they receive information about where it is, and what gifts are needed.

After 24 hours, the pastor can ask additional questions and, if there are serious missional concerns, ask for reconsideration - which may or may not be granted. If there are no serious issues, the pastor is scheduled to meet with the Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) to be introduced. Unless there are significant and insurmountable concerns in that meeting, the appointment is made and the District Superintendent meets with the SPRC where the pastor is currently serving to let them know their pastor will be moved.

In that meeting the SPRC has the chance to tell the District Superintendent what missional priorities they have for their new pastor. And then they wait to hear what new pastor will be sent.

The SPRC of ABUMC is awaiting a call to meet with the pastor that will be appointed to begin their work here in July. It may take another month or more before the committee hears anything.

As we wait, please be praying for the Bishop and cabinet in their process of discernment. Please also be praying for whomever is called to serve here.

With information from
<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/to-be-united-methodist-what-is-itineracy>



Holy Week

Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 2nd **Palm Sunday**
Choral Cantata at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Thursday, April 6th **Maundy Thursday**
Tenebrae Service at 7:00 p.m.

We need 15 readers for this service. If you would like to read, please contact the church office admin@abumc.org or 920-231-2800 and Deb can sign you up.

Friday, April 7th **Good Friday**
We've been invited to attend worship at Wesley UMC at 2:00. 761 Florida Ave, Oshkosh, WI

Sunday, April 9th **Easter**
In person and online services at 9:00 and 10:30 a.m.



Palm Sunday - Eco Palms Did You Know?

This year the palms we use on Palm Sunday will be coming from Eco Palms, a Fair Trade Organization.

Approximately 308 million palm fronds are consumed in the United States each year.

Palm purchases for Palm Sunday may be worth up to 4.5 million dollars per year.

Palm gathering actually protects valuable natural forests.

At least half of the farmers in the Central Peten of Guatemala earn additional income from harvesting fronds and, more than a quarter of household heads support themselves exclusively by collecting fronds.

Each palm plant produces 2 to 5 harvestable leaves over a 2 to 4 month period.

Gatherers receive a higher price for their "fair trade" palms improving their income.

Palms protect valuable natural forests because they provide income to forest communities.

Palms will be "sustainably" harvested and managed protecting the palms and the forests they need for shade.

Why do we choose to purchase these palms?

*To improve income and living conditions for the communities gathering the palm.

*To protect the palms and the important forests from which they are gathered through sustainable harvest programs.

Update on Operating Budget

Wow! Last year ABUMC adopted an operating budget assuming that we would spend more on personnel, utilities, worship, and kids than we would receive through giving and rental income. But through prayer and your generosity, we ended 2022 with a surplus of nearly \$1,900. That was about \$40,000 better than we had budgeted. Actual giving from individuals and families was 5.8% higher than budgeted. Thank you!

We appear to be off to a good start in 2023, with January's finances on target. This year we expect to pay 66.9% of our conference apportionment -- the highest rate in at least a decade and up from 60% in 2022. This is money that we forward quarterly to the larger United Methodist Church to support camps, shelters, programs and missions here in Wisconsin and elsewhere. We have been raising that percentage for the past few years, with the goal of paying 100% as we did throughout most of ABUMC's existence.

One concerning budget item remains our costs for utilities: natural gas, electricity and water/sewer. In 2022, we spent \$12,500 more than budgeted, due to rate increases and somewhat higher usage. The power company recently emailed us that our rates are now going up an additional 13%. Ouch. Please help with prudent consumption.

Thanks to the successful capital campaign last year, Trustees expect to have a new boiler system in place next fall to help with heating efficiency.

— Andy Irvine, Finance Committee

ABUMC
ALGOMA BOULEVARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
building • connecting • growing



Oshkosh Chamber
Singers
to present Haydn's
'The Creation' on April 2

The Oshkosh Chamber Singers will perform Josef Haydn's masterpiece oratorio "The Creation" on Palm Sunday, April 2. The performance will begin at 3 p.m. at Most Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, St. Mary site, 605 Merritt Ave., with choir, soloists, and an orchestra of regional musicians.

The choir members include Todd and Nancy Kaphaem, Barry Yarbro, Deb Madel, Dorothy Zerbe, Jaye Alderson and Bruce Michie.

Soloists will be Erin Bryan, soprano, of Ripon College; Zach Durlam, tenor, of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; and Nathan Krueger, bass, of UW-Oshkosh.

Herb Berendsen will be the conductor.

The oratorio depicts and celebrates the seven days of the biblical creation of the world as described in the Book of Genesis and is an ode to the goodness of God. The libretto draws material from the beginning of Genesis, the Psalms and Milton's "Paradise Lost," and the score includes the popular "The Heavens are Telling."

Tickets to "The Creation" are available now from singers, at Gardina's on Main Street and Hyde Music on South Park Avenue. Further information is available by calling 920-312-8290 or visiting OshkoshChamberSingers.org or the Oshkosh Chamber Singers Facebook page.

April Offering Coins



The Society of St. Andrew's mission is to bring people together to harvest and share healthy food, prevent food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

SoSA sends out teams of volunteers to glean in fields, gathering food that would have been left behind, and ensures that hungry people have food on their table. In 2022, they recovered 20,747,341 pounds of food from 6,651 events, which became 82,989,364 servings of fresh food provided through 1,840 distributing agencies in the United States.

The coins we put into the offering basket in the month of April will benefit Society of St. Andrew.



Volleyball Time!!

Always SO much fun, it's time again for our annual sand volleyball event!

Please join us

Sunday, April 16, at The Bar of Oshkosh, from 2:30-4:30. No

experience necessary! This is just for fun and giggles and a little bit of exercise. All ages, grade 6 and up — bring a friend or two. Anyone interested is welcome to stay after to socialize and have a beverage or some food (they have great wings!). We always appreciate cheerleaders and scorekeepers if you don't want to play.



ABUMC Spring Clean-Up

ABUMC Spring Clean-Up
Saturday, May 6th
8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Bring rakes, shovels,
wheelbarrows...

We will be spreading
mulch, trimming trees, &
pruning flower beds, etc.

Lunch will be served
afterwards.

Any questions, please
contact Steve Zehner



Be sure to wear your ABUMC tee shirt. If you don't have one, see Lisa-Marie.



On Sunday, April 23, we are invited to give to a special ministry of the United Methodist Church. Native American Ministries Sunday serves to remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society and in our communities. With more than 20,000 Native Americans within the denomination, this Special Sunday helps to ensure that Native American United Methodist leaders are recognized and to celebrate their special voice in The United Methodist Church.

This Special Sunday was officially recognized in 1988 and has been celebrated on the Third Sunday of Easter since 1989. An offering is taken on this day and is used to develop and strengthen Native American ministries in the annual conferences, and Native American rural, urban, reservation ministries and communities. It also provides scholarships for Native Americans attending United Methodist schools of theology.

Donations support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities and allow The UMC to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans.

Spaghetti Dinner

April 29

A spaghetti dinner to support the 2023 Youth Mission Trip to Boston, Massachusetts, will be held Saturday, April 29, in Paine Hall at Algoma Boulevard United Methodist Church.

The doors will open at 5 p.m., dinner will be served starting at 5:30. The silent auction will be open until 6:45 p.m., and a live auction will begin at 7 p.m.

Auction items will include a set of four Packers tickets, a Timber Rattlers package, a party for eight at Chula Vista Waterpark in Wisconsin Dells, haircuts and supplies, lawn mowing performed by youths, and yard work performed by youths.

Tickets will be on sale between services on Sundays April 9, 16 and 23. They are \$10 for adults, \$5 for youths ages 6-17 and free for those 5 and younger.

Contact Steve Zehner at 920-420-5156 if you have questions or wish to donate or volunteer for the event.

The Youth Mission Trip is June 10th - June 18th, with work being done on community shelters and homes in the community.



2022 Birthday Bags



Birthday bags is a community service project to help families who utilize the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry celebrate birthdays.

Sunday school classes will package birthday bags with cake mix, frosting, candles, a card, paper plates and napkins. We package these bags for the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry for families to get a birthday cake for kids in need. We would like supplies for birthday bags by the morning of **May 7th**. Sunday school students will be packaging on May 7th. Ridgeway 4-H Club will be packaging extra supplies on June 13th.



For donations, we will take cash and these items. Cake mixes, frosting, candles, paper plates and napkins. Also, it costs \$5 to sponsor one bag. We are in most need of cake mixes and frosting. Birthday bag items can be dropped off in the entryway at church through May 7th.

Monetary donations can be mailed to the church. Please make checks payable to ABUMC and mark those Birthday Bags. Donations also will be collected at church between services in April.

— Written by Evan Numrich, 9th-grader and member of Ridgeway 4-H Club

In our ongoing effort to be good stewards of this magnificent Earth God has given us, ABUMC has adopted a section of highway through the Wisconsin State Adopt-A-Highway program. WisDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program is the official coordination system for volunteer efforts to remove trash, recyclables and litter from Wisconsin's roadsides. There are roughly 11,800 miles of state, federal and interstate highways in Wisconsin, and a large portion of the roadside areas are kept beautiful by Adopt-a-Highway volunteers. Our adopted area is on Highway 91 from County Highway FF to just east of Bradley Road.

So, we will need volunteers to head out and pick up trash a couple of times each year. Watch for announcements.

Happy Easter!



He has Risen!

New Playground

Read Elementary School needs a new playground! Playgrounds are expensive, and they have developed a plan for an awesome playground for the kids! But because 62% of the children at Read are economically disadvantaged, they need community support to raise the necessary funds. They need to raise \$450,000 by June 1. More than \$100,000 already has been attained, and they have applied for a grant to fund another large portion. If you would like to donate funds in any amount to offset the balance, the kids will really benefit! To donate, mail checks to:

Oshkosh Community Foundation
230 Ohio Street, Ste 100
Oshkosh, WI 54902

In the memo line write: *Read Elementary Playground Fund*

Check out www.readplayground.com for more information regarding the school, the need and the goal.



United Women in Faith



Soul Saturday

On February 25th, United Women in Faith held our debut Soul Saturday. This was an occasion to refresh and renew ourselves. Beginning in the morning, guests enjoyed breakfast while getting to know each other.

After breakfast, we were challenged to guess our mothers from pictures we brought. We soon realized how difficult it was to identify any mother, other than our own! The ones we were positive of were usually a wrong answer. Putting down random numbers because time was running out may have worked out better! The best detective proved to be Jennifer Dreikosen. She successfully identified 6 out of 17 mom pictures!

Also, we tapped into our childhood and created a "paper doll" complete with a "verse dress." Everyone was provided materials to complete a paper doll and complete a dress that included a special message. Bible verse suggestions were available, as well as choosing your own design. After all the dolls were brought together, it was obvious how creative we could be! All the designs were wonderful! We chose a Top 5 to narrow down our choices. Finally, we announced Jane Barber as the winner!



Once again, we gathered for a meal. This time, it was a choice of homemade soups and salad luncheon. Also, we shared some favorite poetry, chose a cherished Bible verse, and laughed ... a lot. Dessert may have been in there, too! All things considered, during these four quick hours, our souls were filled.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith Meetings

On January 17th, United Women in Faith invited Cheryl Rosenthal, Oshkosh Area Humane Society, to speak to our group. Cheryl's years at the shelter have provided her with many examples for us of families of women, children and youths that could involve pets. Her talk was very informative.



A business meeting was held at which installation of officers and mission coordinators was conducted.

*Remember: Deadline
for Circuit Rider is the
10th of the Month!*

