



ALGOMA BOULEVARD UNITED • METHODIST • CHURCH

abumc.org *November 2024*



photo by Cindy Overton

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.



FROM THE HEART OF PASTOR ELLEN

November, 2024

This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

~ Psalm 118.24 ESV

Dear Beloved ~

It is a GREAT JOY to celebrate this season of gratitude with all of you! As disciples of Jesus Christ, we can trust in his leadership and faithfulness. We worship an amazing God who is ever-present, trustworthy, and full of grace. We have much to be grateful for even in the midst of turbulent times.

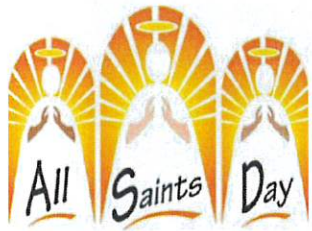
One of the challenges we are facing is all of the political ads. Can you turn on the TV and not be bombarded? Billboards are up all over the place. It is election season and it's a critical part of the democratic process. As United Methodists, we are encouraged to prayerfully discern and engage in the civic process of voting for candidates that uphold the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are to engage with love and respect for one another and that can be challenging to do in these divisive times.

My friend, Nick Coenen, Pine Lake Camp & Retreat Center Director, shared this on Facebook:

On a short trip to Florida with Jamie for a few days. Know what I noticed almost immediately? Almost no political yard signs. Watched college football most of the afternoon and didn't see a single presidential political ad. Being a swing state is a curse, Wisconsin. I promise, there is still life beyond the suffocating politics we have all been in for the last month. Hang in there. Oh yeah, and go vote.

I am grateful for his humor and heart-warming note. We honor our civic obligations **and** we live our lives as disciples of the Risen Lord. We are people of possibilities, hope, healing, forgiveness, grace, and new life. People are anxious. Some are fearful and traumatized. Now more than ever our neighbors and communities need our Christ light to shine boldly and brilliantly. Let us be love in action as we nurture hope and healing in one another. We rejoice always and give thanks for our lives in Jesus Christ!

Love & Peace, Pastor Ellen



Remembering Our Loved Ones

November 3 Celebration

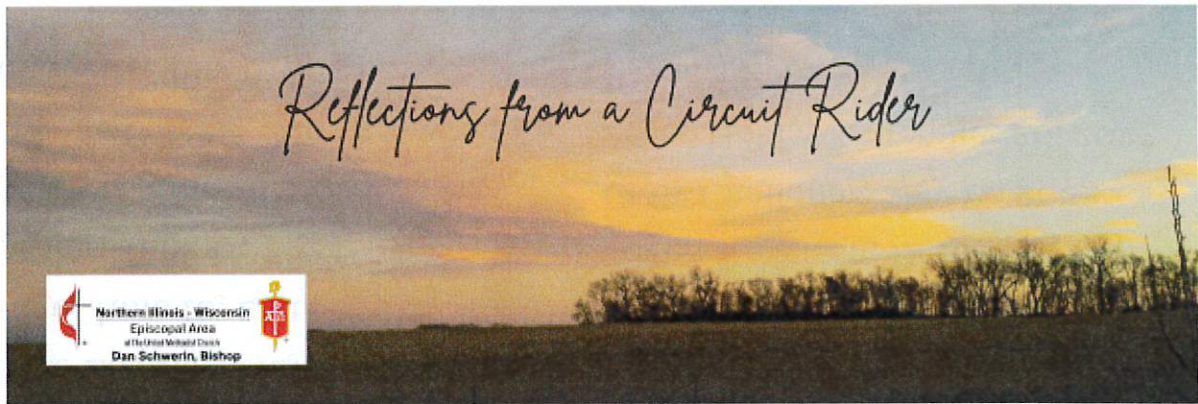
Since All Saints Day 2023

Eileen Brownlea, November 5, 2023
Dorothy Janness, November 11, 2023
Gail Lee, November 17, 2023
Kathleen Wolf, November 19, 2023
Kylie Montee, November 28, 2023
Timothy Dolan, December 20, 2023
Betty Merington, January 7, 2024
Ethel Yarbro, January 11, 2024
Margaret Betchart, January 14, 2024
Aaron Brownlea, January 14, 2024
Daniel Montney, January 22, 2024
Loretta Jane Liddle, February 1, 2024
Mark W. Sullivan, February 8, 2024
Don Wolter, March 3, 2024
George Adjai, April 9, 2024
Shirley Brooks, April 2024
Theuang Vongsa, May 3, 2024
Betty Jane VanDeMark, May 7, 2024
Sheila Mae Miller, May 20, 2024
Ted Chitwood, May 21, 2024
David Albrecht, May 22, 2024
Claire Kliss-Zentner, May 23, 2024
Lois Hedge, June 10, 2024
Vivian Miller, June 11, 2024
Marilyn Lewis, June 28, 2024
Shirley Elaine Calkins, June 30, 2024
Steve Amonette, July 8, 2024

Becky Woodbury, July 8, 2024
Michael Miller, July 27, 2024
Gary Wheelock, July 30, 2024
Carol Dolan, August 6, 2024
Diane Smoody, October 4, 202

Those upon our hearts:

Robert Dumdie Sr., December 3, 1975
Albert Hauter, February 13, 1981
Mabel Hauter, December 3, 1997
Lucreatia Dumdie, May 8, 2002
Bob Challoner, January 31, 2007
Brian Tokoph, February 17, 2017
Gene Holda, March 30, 2018
Gloria Rast, July 29, 2018
Lois Holda, December 12, 2018
James Savinski, August 28, 2019
Alex Wolf, November 20, 2019
Jack Propp, October 26, 2020
Judith L. Thoma, November 27, 2020
Virginia Davis, May 21, 2021
Nancy L. Severn, June 19, 2021
Glenn H. Steinbrecher, May 17, 2022
Jean L. Steinbrecher, February 23, 2023
Joann S. Nelson, December 14, 2022
Craig Challoner, May 12, 2023
Joyce Holda, September 28, 2023
Patricia Reba Voss



Reflections From a Circuit Rider...

“What kind of day are you going to have?” I would ask my kids when they were being dropped off at school in the morning.

After an eye roll, they would say in a monotone, ‘a great day.’

“What are you going to use?” They grew tired of the question in kindergarten and loathed it more with each passing year.

“Imagination!” Either they would answer under duress—or I would say it for them.

Imagination moves us emotionally and spiritually; it matures us and creates our bonds.

We belong to the moral imagination of Jesus, who proclaimed a Kingdom of God, a way of Love, a governance of love and justice, a prodigal-loving, late-comer paying, and non-violent change agency of salt, light, and leaven.

The Northern Illinois Vision is: “supporting vital Christians and vital congregations that engage with their communities and the world for peace, justice and mercy.” The Wisconsin Conference has imagined the moral good of living in Beloved Community together as their visioning image.

These help us imagine that relationships of mutual benefit are at the heart of the way of Jesus. The restorative principle of ubuntu also affirms that we exist for interdependent good. Ubuntu is an animating principle that: ‘my well-being is your well-being,’ and ‘your healing is needed for my well-being—and my harm undermines the well-being of all.’ The late Rabbi Heschel said the prophets’ message could be summarized as: ‘few are guilty; all are responsible.’

The concept of intersectionality points to the ways categories such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, can create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. The timeless message of scripture is that we belong to a cosmic body of Christ.

All this to say, the following days of celebration and recognition below matter to all of us. Note these special celebrations in October:

October 1: International Day of Older Persons

October 2: International Day of Nonviolence

October 5: World Teacher’s Day

October 7: World Habitat Day

October 10: World Mental Health Day

October 14: Indigenous Peoples' Day

October 24: United Nations Day

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month as well as Clergy Appreciation month.

I know my best days as a clergy person were ubuntu days, windows of shepherding wholeness and well-being for the church and for the world. Thank you, clergy, for your gifts given for the work of Christ.

When I started to serve in the episcopal office as an Assistant to Bishop Jung, I wondered, in relation to the Boarding School stories surfacing stories of the abuse of Native Peoples in Canada, about the harm of boarding schools in Wisconsin, now part of the Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Area. Now sharing the span of care of both conferences, my mind turns to the memory of one man.

When I was the superintendent in Milwaukee, we had a Native American Ministry at 11th and Maple. In an effort to help appoint a clergy leader there, I entered the building early for a meeting and I got acquainted with someone who became my rabbi—teaching me dynamics and realities of those city-dwelling persons, mostly from Oneida, who came to the city to make a living in the 50's, and their kids and grandkids. He described his boarding school experience, being whipped for using his language, the separation from family, and the long-standing grief of all he lost. He made clear these experiences impacted him each day. I went to the lunches they held to raise funds, and sought him out, and learned what I could through relationship, now twenty years ago.

I can't think of October, the 14th, the Indigenous Peoples' Celebration at Starved Rock, Illinois, or any of the remembrances without seeing his face in my mind's eye, and thinking how healing harm is tied up with our mutual well-being, and how honest reckoning and even economic questions are unresolved with our reckoning of racism in this country—and all of it is tied up with our flourishing, and release from harm for a newness of life that demonstrates our baptism.

I will leave you with a sijo from my collection, lightly, published by red moon press, and ask you to pray and consider your own ubuntu steps:

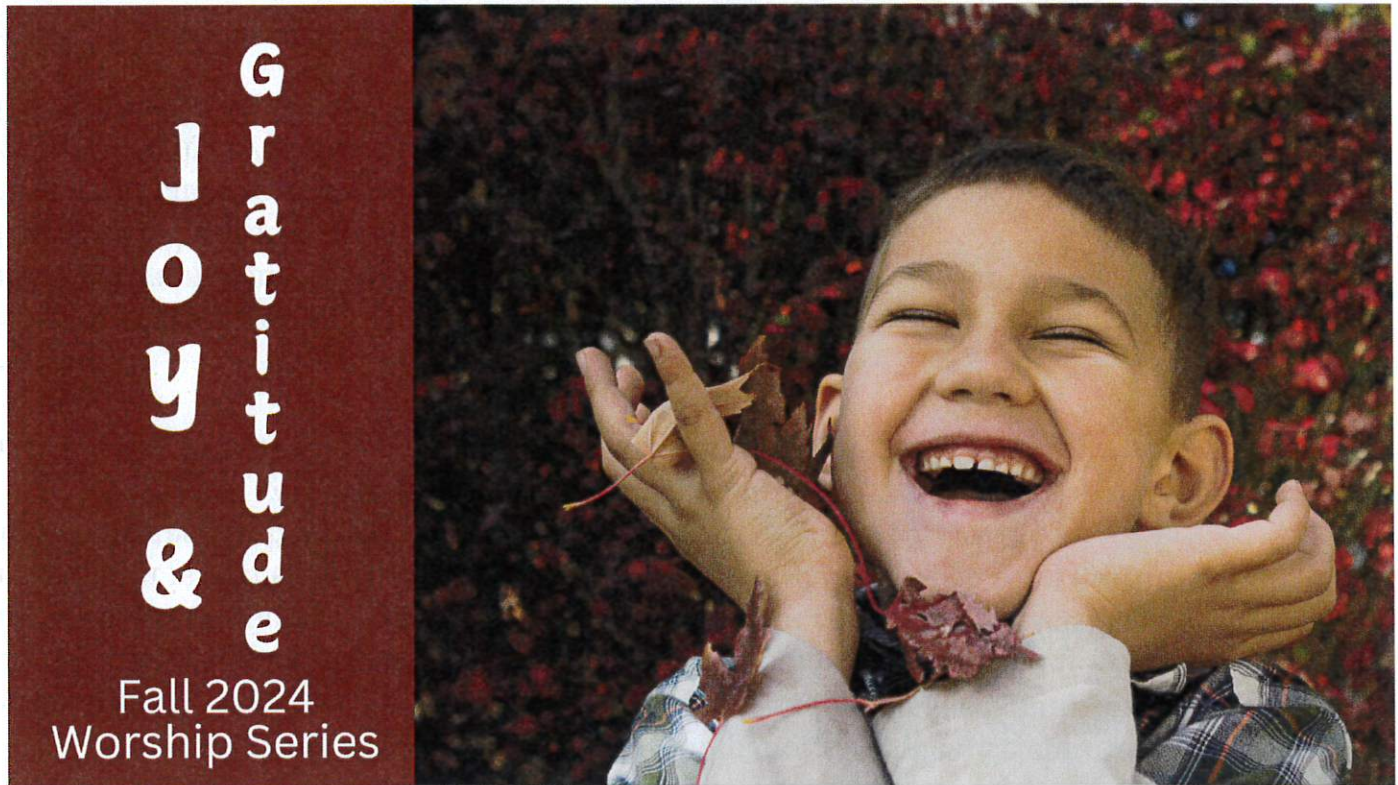
Honestly
How other trees gossip
about the rain comes to nothing.
Trees made honest by the breeze
have less malice to confess.
Be here lightly, even kindly.
There is mud, too, in your nest.

Be here, kindly. Thank you, all of you, for your ministry.
Peace,

Dan Schwerin. Bishop
Northern Illinois-Wisconsin Area

What's Up in Worship—November, 2024

Joy & Gratitude Series Continues



As our hearts overflow with Joy & Gratitude, we continue with our celebration throughout the month of November.

We begin November with the **Celebration of Saints** and a time change. **Don't forget to FALL BACK one hour on Saturday night on 11/3!** Pastor Ellen shares that this is one of her favorite annual worship experiences. It is a mix of joy and reverence and a special time of remembrance. We are reminded of the saints that prayed us into today and the connection we are building with the saints of tomorrow. Dixieland inspired jazz played by Travis & Friends, will accompany us. *Previously we had reported that the family of Lois Hedge would join us for worship this day. They are unable to do so, but will join us on November 10.*

NOVEMBER 10—IS A ONE SERVICE SUNDAY at 10 am! A celebration of our **SPRING CHICKENS** will follow the worship experience. **If you normally come at 9 am, you can sleep in a little bit. If you normally come at 10:30, set your alarm a little earlier. Plan to stay for the celebration.**



Gratitude
&
Joy



Celebration of the Saints
November 3, 2024
Revelation 21.1-6

*The Holy One will wipe away every tear
from their eyes. Death will be no more.
There will be no mourning, crying,
or pain anymore.*



**ONE
Service
At 10am!**



Gratitude
&
Joy



Celebration of Disciples
November 10, 2024
Luke 2.25-40
*The Ministries of
Simeon and Anna*



Gratitude
&
Joy



Celebration of God's Covenant
November 17, 2024
Hebrews 10.11-25



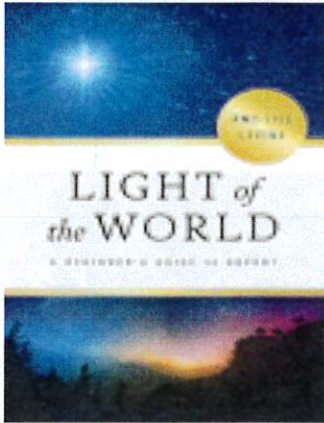
November 17, 2024



November 28, 2024



Coming in Advent ~ Light of the World Worship Series & Congregation Study



Light of the World:

A Beginner's Guide to Advent

By Dr. Amy-Jill Levine

Studies facilitated by

Don Nelson

Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am

Beginning December 1 Fireside Room

Pastor Ellen & Sheri Graeber

Sundays at 6:30 pm in Room 201

Beginning December 1

Pastor Keith

Mondays, 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. for 4 Weeks.

Beginning November 25, running through December 16

Purchase books from your preferred vendor and read Chapter 1 before the first session.

Pastor Chuck at Evergreen

Time and Day to be Determined

Please contact the facilitator of the class you wish to attend.

Jewish author, professor, and biblical scholar Dr. Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. Participants will find the Gospel's tidings of comfort and joy become sources of rich spiritual contemplation and will gain a deeper understanding of the Advent season. **Pastor Ellen will be ordering books through the United Methodist publisher, Cokesbury on November 18. Please let her know if you wish to order a book.**

Connections Ministries



We're Gonna Celebrate!

We are so excited! We're having a celebration of some of our most amazing ABUMC friends! On Sunday, November 10, we will have just one worship service at 10 a.m., and immediately following there will be a party to celebrate our "spring chickens." ABUMC has such a great community of people who have blessed us with their presence, life experiences, wisdom, and love throughout the years and we want to show our gratitude and appreciation to them. Some of our spring chickens have been with ABUMC for many years and some are newer to us, and we look forward to celebrating them all! After worship, everyone is invited to enjoy delicious desserts, appetizers, and beverages and of course to chat with our honored guests.

We hope to see you there!

Meals With Heart

We have an amazing ABUMC team that you may not be aware of. This is a team of people with a heart for helping people within our church community. When someone has surgery that sets them back, a debilitating illness, a death in the family, or some other difficult life event, they may benefit from having a meal or meals delivered to their home. We have a great group of people ready to jump in and serve in this capacity. If you ever find yourself in need of this hospitality or would like to join the meal team, please reach out to Lisa-Marie.



Angel Tree Mission



For many years, ABUMC has taken part in Angel Tree, a mission of Prison Fellowship. Each year we get a list of local children who have an incarcerated parent. We contact the caregiver of each of the children and find out what they may be hoping for in a Christmas gift. Then we have the joy of purchasing a gift for the child on behalf of their incarcerated parent. Read the story below of one child who received an Angel Tree gift.

So much in Marcella's life had changed, but a gift from her mom brought back a sense of normalcy. She didn't understand why her mom had left, or if she had left her on purpose. Her mom was in prison, and nobody would tell Marcella when she'd be getting out. All she knew was Mom was not coming home this Christmas. But her mom still sent a gift—thanks to Angel Tree and the generosity of a local church. And that gift meant a connection.

Marcella and her mom had a long journey ahead of them before true reconciliation could take place. But the journey began with an angel hung in a tree and a present wrapped beneath it. Angel Tree gift tags will be displayed in the church mission area beginning Sunday, November 17. Please consider choosing a tag, purchasing the requested gift, and returning it wrapped by December 1.

Winter Camp 2025

It's that time of year again – time to get ready for Winter Camp at beautiful Lake Lucerne in Neshkoro, Wisconsin. The camp is nestled among more than 500 acres of forest. It is such a peaceful, relaxing setting. Winter Camp is for everyone, young and old. We sleep in cabins and gather in the dining hall and retreat center for group activities. Camp this year will be Jan. 24-26. Check-in takes place Friday evening and we depart Sunday after a casual worship experience. Camp is what you make of it. You can spend the weekend relaxing and reading by a fire. You can hike or snowshoe through the woods. You can join in Saturday evening games and socialize. You can sled or ice skate if there's snow and ice. Stay tuned for additional information or speak with Craig Blumer





United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith hosted their annual potluck dinner on September 17, as a kickoff to the fall activities for the unit. I'd like to thank those who participated in the meal and, hopefully, enjoyed all the delicious food.

Following the potluck meal, the group was introduced to Dr. Misty McPhee. She is a professor of environmental science and wildlife conservation at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. She received her degree from the University of Michigan. She served as a research biologist in the Galapagos Islands studying the Galapagos mockingbird, and was then a research associate at Cornell University leading field research on Syrian hamsters in southern Turkey. She joined UW-Oshkosh's faculty in 2009 and teaches several courses focused on sustainability and is associated with the university's Sustainability Institute for Regional Transformation. She is also a member of the Whooping Crane Reintroduction Team and conducts research designed to increase the success of the whooping crane reintroduction program in Wisconsin.

Dr. McPhee is qualified to speak on any number of topics, but for this evening she was asked to talk about why people resist science and don't accept the science of climate change, vaccination information, etc. She shared with us that in the current

computer age, many of us are getting our information from the internet. That information may not be the most reliable, so be aware of where you get your information. In addition to that, sometimes, we find a source that may fit into what we have been led to believe. If a source is reinforcing some of the incorrect information you already believe, it is easy for you to continue to believe the false information. Dr. McPhee spoke for about 45 minutes and really engaged the audience. We also were pleased that her mother, a resident of Evergreen, was able to join us for the meal and presentation.

Following the meal, we held a brief unit meeting. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, Nov. 13, at 1 p.m. Election of officers will be held. Barbara Diener-Blumer will conduct a pledge service for 2025, and Jan Nash will give us a short presentation about the new books for the 2025 Reading Program.

Please consider joining us.
All are welcome!

— Sandy Butcher





Pegasis



- MUSIC STARTS AT 12:34PM
- COME EARLY, POTLUCK AT 11:30AM
- 3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
- FREE ADMISSION

Nov 17

Algoma Boulevard UMC
1174 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI

**We welcome PEGASIS as our next 12:34 artist -
mark 11/17 in your calendars!**

PEGASIS was formed by sisters Rissel, Yaina, and Marvelis Peguero Almonte, with guitarist Matt Hillman. They started composing and performing together in 2017. In 2023 they added bassist Tony Pesavento and drummer Jeremy Seelig.

PEGASIS is influenced by all types of music and that is reflected in their original compositions. From jazz, funk, rock, classical, hip hop, bolero, bachata, reggaeton, even EDM, PEGASIS draws influences from every corner of the world of music.

PEGASIS hopes to inspire artists to not be afraid of diving deep into songwriting and challenging the status quo. Flow with PEGASIS as they explore the struggles and triumphs of everyday life, and on being kind to one's SELF and one's neighbor.



**Daylight
Savings
Time
Begins on
Sunday
November
3
At 2 am!**



HAPPY 
**VETERANS
DAY** 
November 11, 2024



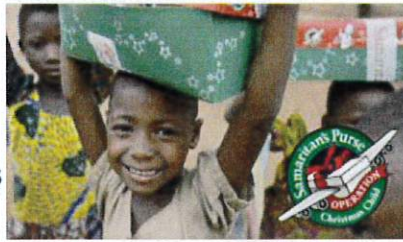
**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE.**

Ways to Give at ABUMC

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 now until Nov. 24 (must have by 9 a.m. on Nov. 24)
- I will lead Sunday school with packing Sunday Nov. 24, 2024, during the service.

What can you do?

Please give us donations to put in the shoeboxes

- notebooks, pens/pencils, coloring supplies, small toys and accessories, and other things from this QR code. The QR code also lists what you can't donate.
- We also can accept donations for shipping shoeboxes. They are \$10 per box to ship.



Thank you! Evan Numrich

How To Give At ABUMC

We honor our baptismal and membership vows to God by our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. As contributors to a connectional system, our gifts have a global impact. Thank you for your generous support of the ministries at work in and through the people of ABUMC.

To Give In-Person: Envelopes are available at each worship experience, and you can designate how you would like your gift distributed.

Cash and checks payable to ABUMC are accepted.

To Give Electronically:

Online at: <https://www.abumc.org/giving> —Select “How to Give” and follow the online giving link.

Through your bank: Work with your online banking system to set up recurring or one-time payments through options like ZELLE or electronic funds transfer.

To Mail Gifts:

Please make your check payable to ABUMC and send your gift to
ABUMC, 1174 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh, WI 54901

For assistance with any of these options, please contact our staff at 920.231.2800.

Thank you for your gifts.

November Coins Disaster Relief

Catastrophic weather events and natural disasters continue to wreak havoc on our planet and cause incomprehensible destruction and human suffering. **The United Methodist Committee on Relief, UMCOR**, supports local efforts to accomplish immediate relief and long-term recovery while providing for volunteers to offer compassionate ministry in the aftermath of disasters.

In partnership with disaster response ministries and coordinators in U.S. annual conferences, UMCOR journeys with affected communities throughout a disaster's cycle, including disaster preparedness, relief, response, recovery and mitigation. UMCOR-trained Early Response Teams (ERTs) are coordinating efforts to support the removal of debris, tarping of roofs, and cleaning out of homes in hard-hit areas.

During the month of November, coins collected during the offering will go to UMCOR for disaster relief. Additional donations may be made via the offering envelope, sending a check to the church office, or with your online giving. Please be sure to indicate your donation is for UMCOR disaster relief.

Special Note: UMCOR Sunday – March 30, 2025

The UMCOR Sunday offering underwrites UMCOR's administrative costs. This offering allows UMCOR to use 100% of all funds given to humanitarian response and recovery efforts directly to communities in need. These gifts ensure UMCOR can respond swiftly to disasters around the world and as a source of hope and healing for those left most vulnerable. UMCOR receives no apportionment dollars. It's ministries are supported by generous donors from around the world.

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

This is a circuit church conference.

We will meet according to this schedule...

5:00 pm community meal hosted by Algoma Boulevard

5:45 pm DS Park meets with First SPRC representatives

6:00 pm joint worship service

6:45 pm break-out conferences First (DS Hunter) and Wesley (Rev. Rasmussen)

7:00 pm break-out conference for Algoma Boulevard (led by DS Hunter)

7:15 pm headed home