

Allegan United Methodist Church  
409 Trowbridge Street  
Allegan, MI 49010

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 144  
ALLEGAN, MI 49010



Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 p.m.  
Pastor's Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00-12:00 p.m. or by appointment  
**Phone:** 269.673.4236 • **Fax:** 269-673-8856 • **Email:** secretary@allumc.org • **Website:** alleganumc.org

**DECEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER**

**THANKS!!**

Morgan Founé thanks everyone who donated blankets for the Homeless blanket drive she did in October. She was able to raise over 50 blankets!! Great job everyone!!

Pastor Bob would like to thank everyone for the card, gift and cake for Pastor Appreciation!

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Congratulations Joshua & Amanda Blom at the announcement that they are expecting Baby #2 in May.

**VISUALLY IMPAIRED GROUP MEETS DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> AT 10:30 A.M. FOR ANYONE INTERESTED OR IF YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS VISUALLY IMPAIRED WHO WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND.**

**Can't remember Norm & Margaret Pierson's Kalamazoo addresses?**

Norm: (Sojourner Place)  
5364 Green Meadow Road  
Room 102  
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Margaret:  
3414 Grace Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

**Health Concerns:** Continued prayers for Chic Heckman as she continues to have health issues. Prayers for Gene Wood and his family as he works to get healthy and restore kidney function. Prayers for all those affected by fires and storms across this

**Prayers for our military:**

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**Concerns:** Prayers to the family and friends of Bill Carr at his passing November 8<sup>th</sup>. Prayers for the Pastor at the passing of his brother-in-law, as well as for Doug Duryea, at the passing of his beloved dog and is feeling more alone in Florida. Continued prayers for those unnamed, having health problems, or have suffered loss.



## Sermon Themes



Advent marks the beginning of another year in the cycle of Scriptures that presents the narrative of the love of God revealed to the world. Jesus is coming! It is our responsibility to “prepare the way” and get ready. What is your church doing to make a place for Christ to be known in your community?

## December

### December 2<sup>nd</sup> First Sunday of Advent

### Prepare the Way Worship Series, STAND

**Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 21:25-36** Jesus offers words that call us to be ready when the kingdom of God bursts into our daily existence. The *kairos* of God disrupts our human *chronos* (God’s time and human time, respectively), and things cannot remain the same

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> 6pm Carols by**

### Candlelight

### December 9<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday of Advent

### Prepare the Way Worship Series, REFINE

**Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 3:1-6** It is a call to renewal on the part of God’s people. It is not so much the idea of punishment as it is the idea of being convicted in light of the Great Day of the Lord and a time of a new beginning.

### December 16<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday of Advent

### Prepare the Way Worship Series, DO

**Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Luke 3: 7-18** The Hebrew test promises that the people’s fortune and future have been changed from judgment to hope, from destruction to restoration, from oppression to liberation, and from dread to praise (Zeph. 3: 14-20). In the gospel text, John the Baptizer opens the curtains before the human drama to introduce the coming of the One who will bring a new chapter of salvation (Luke 3: 7-18).

### December 23<sup>rd</sup> Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Prepare the Way Worship Series: WELCOME

**Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55** As Advent leads us toward encountering the infant Christ in a stable and with the announcement of the Good News being first shared with lowly shepherds, so we are invited to become more

mindful and aware of ministries with and for the excluded.

**December 24<sup>th</sup> 8pm Christmas Eve**

**Prepare the Way Worship Series: ARRIVE**

**Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 2:1-20** The church is the place where people from all diverse tribes and nations are affirmed in their magnificent variety. The church is a community where people can be what they are, and do what they do best.

**December 30<sup>th</sup> First Sunday after Christmas Day**

**Prepare the Way Worship Series:**

**SEARCH Luke 2:41-52** Mary and Joseph search for their lost child, Jesus. Jesus is on a search for answers; he is developing into adulthood, and — above all — discovering his mission as Son of God.

## THANKFUL CORNER

The Thanksgiving turkey is hardly off of the table and Sunday we had the Hanging of the Greens! Wow, talk about changing seasons in a hurry but Christmas is just not a season or holiday, it is a state of the heart! I have some Elves to thank for helping with the pre-Hanging of the Greens; Willard, Rod, Steve, Rick, Wende, Linda, Nancy and Pastor Bob for his guidance. Also a huge thank you to all those who took part in the service doing the readings and the decorating, you were all simply amazing.

And so the Christmas season begins in earnest. Decorations need to be put up, cards need to be written, and there's food to prepare, and gifts to buy, Church services to attend, and parties to prepare for, why no wonder it gets so hectic. Imagine Mary who was visited by an angel and told that she was to be the mother of the Christ Child! Think about Joseph and he being told he was to be the father of Mary's child. Two young people selected to bring the Christ Child into the world, impossible! I think not. We all know the old story that is told anew year after year and yet it touches our hearts each and every time we hear it. We imagine Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. We can see the Wise Men who came from afar, the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks by night, the innkeeper who turned them away, the angel and her visits, the star that led the way to the manger. And we are caught up with the excitement once again.

Knowing that Christmas can be a hectic time for many of us as we get caught up in all the things and festivities that accompany the holiday. I ask you to stop, sit, and listen to the beauty of children giggling, smile seeing grandpa sleeping in his chair. Let the dishes sit in the sink and instead sit with your loved ones, sharing stories that will be the treasures that we will cherish time and time again through the years. The gift of the Christ Child is the same on Christmas Day as it is on January 31<sup>st</sup> as we do not have to limit our celebration to just one day. A Savior was born for us, and that is worth celebrating any day. Let us celebrate this wondrous gift each and every day of the year.

Dear God, We come to you excited to hear the news of the Christ Child. So much about God remains a mystery, but knowing He sent Jesus to save us is enough. Thank you for the gift of your Son as He grows more precious every year.

*Merry Christmas, my dear friends. Judy Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.*

*- Laura Ingalls Wilder, Author*



Month	2017 Visits	# of People	2018 Visits	# of People	# of Kids
Jan-Sept	918	2,876	842	2,755	1,053 (thru 9/28)
October	105	334	76	250	100 (thru 10/22)
Nov.	110	355	88	293	113 (thru 11/27)
Dec.	96	310			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,229</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>3,298</b>	<b>1,266</b>

**STATISTICS:** This year we served 35 **homeless** households from Jan. 1 to Nov. 16. Last year, during the same time frame served 46 households. This is great news. Below is information based on housing type (1/1-11/16):

Family Type	Households	0-17	18-64	65+	Total	Working #
Type is blank	5	16	11	0	27	3
2 Adult w/child	128	293	281	5	579	49
2 Adult/no child	57	0	80	26	106	11
Grandparent w/child	8	4	18	4	26	4
Married	80	10	81	81	172	13
Married w/child	244	558	627	19	1,204	129
Other	64	35	159	26	220	22
Single	301	18	229	94	341	29
Single w/child	151	321	264	12	597	32
Single w/live-in	38	6	87	0	93	11
Widow(er)	15	48	11	4	63	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>1,848</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>3,428</b>	<b>303</b>

Jan. 1 – Nov. 16 we spent \$5,361.97 in food, personal care items and supplies. Last year the total was \$4,584.77. Did you know that we have 35 households?

**THANKSGIVING BASKETS:** We provided four families with a complete Thanksgiving Dinner.

## Church and Parsonage Expenses - October 2018

**October Income      \$14,024.15**

### **Church Expenses**

705	Administrative Misc.	7.47
602	Charter (Internet, Phone)	183.55
606	Church Maintenance	168.45
602	City of Allegan (Water, Sewer)	499.78
1006	Cokesbury (Christian Education)	62.20
602	Consumers Elect. (Oct. & Nov.)	1,370.81
709	Machine Maintenance (Konica Copier)	260.96
602	Michigan Gas	61.49
702	Office Supplies	113.41
703	Postage	200.00
505	Professional Reimbursement - Pastor Bob	40.00
602	Republic Services (Garbage/Recycle) (Church & Parsonage)	69.90
504	Travel - Pastor Bob	400.00
	Wages	10,252.62
	West Michigan Conference & Insurance	4,856.83
903	Worship	338.99
807	Music - Choir	9.99

**Total Church Expenses for October 2018      19,098.02**

### **Parsonage Expenses**

	(Phone, TV,		
602	Charter	Internet)	(Oct. & Nov.)
			201.36
602	Consumers Electric		457.18
602	Michigan Gas		19.55

**Total Parsonage Expenses for October 2018      678.09**

**(Non  
Audited)**



# Church Bazaar

Allegan United Methodist Church  
Corner of Walnut and Trowbridge

## Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup>

8:00am - 12:30 p.m.

### Wonderful Bake Goods

- \*breads
- \*rolls      \*treat
- \*cookies    \*snacks
- \*cupcakes

### Convenience Foods

- \*frozen casseroles
- \*soups
- \*jams
- \*pickles

### Great Buys

- \*crafts
- \*handmade items
- \*Treasure room

### Come EAT

- \*Cinnamon Rolls & Coffee
- \*Pulled pork lunch plate

Come join the excitement! Enjoy the food and music!

2018

## MISSION MOMENTS

The congregation has numerous opportunities to provide mission outreach during the month of December. Our congregation is once again sponsoring our annual Angel Tree. Thirteen families were provided to us through the staff at North Ward. Even though the number of families exceeded our original expectations, the angels have all been signed for by our generous congregation. The gifts are to be returned to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, December 9th. They should be gift wrapped with the Angel Tag on the outside. Friday, December 14 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., volunteers are needed to sort and organize the presents. Volunteers are also needed on Saturday, December 15 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon assisting the families with pick-up. A signup sheet has been posted in Fellowship Hall for volunteers for both dates.

The Hands of Grace Food Pantry has been chosen as the benefactor of the monthly Communion Offering and any donations designated as Project of the Month for the month of December.

Donations received from the Christmas Advent Folders and offerings will be used to provide disaster relief to the hurricane victims along the Eastern Seaboard and the forest fire victims in California.

And lastly, the Christmas Remembrance/Poinsettia funds will be used to help support Sylvia's Place, which is Allegan County's only domestic violence safe house, offering secure shelter and supportive services free of charge to survivors of abuse and their dependent children.

As you can see, there are many opportunities to help those less fortunate and in need through the Allegan United Methodist Church. Thank you for your support!



## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR USHERS AND GREETERS**

Because of the congestion that sometimes occurs when people are arriving for Sunday service at the front Walnut Street entrance of the church, Worship Committee would like to try scheduling greeters only at the Fellowship Hall Entrance and have the Usher at the front entrance greet people as they hand out the Sunday Service Bulletin. This would eliminate one or two greeters in the front vestibule area making it less crowded. Worship Committee has decided to try this new procedure for three months from January through March, 2019. If this seems to work, we will continue to schedule greeters only at the Fellowship Hall entrance. If problems arise we do not foresee now, we will reconsider and return to our present front door and fellowship hall entrance scheduling. We sincerely appreciate all those who are willing to serve as ushers and/or greeters or both as we strive to make our church a warm, welcoming sanctuary in which to worship. If you have any questions, please contact Janice Tuffelmire or Willard Jennings.

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