

Allegan United Methodist Church - April



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Emberly DeBruyne, Mike Walsh, Jim Elmore, Mary Kay Borgman, Andy Branham, Karen Rouse, June Fullerton, Trevah Dalrymple, Dick Rasmussen, Wrenley Harris, Shari Bradley, Karen Rambadt, Tim Closson, Eric Medemar, Matthew Creech, and Ed Garvin.

PRAYERS FOR OUR MILITARY (Those connected with this congregation):

Alyssa Chamberlain, Sadie Evans, Andrew Cowen, Stephanie Hadley, Isaiah Hadley, Kyrel Hall, Aaron Maule, and Dan Wroblecki.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THOSE BATTLING CANCER OR HAVING TREATMENT:

Sharon Goodrich, Mytron Lisby (Rambadt), Juanita Ellis, Ben Wood, Kim Emmons, Christina Thompson, Terry Brink, Adam Hughes, and those known but unnamed.

If you have any joys or concerns you would like announced on the live stream Sunday Service, please contact the church office(phone/email) no later than 11:30 a.m. Thursdays.



April
BIRTHDAYS

- 5-Bob Lynch
- 11-Michelle Adams
- Aleeka DeBruyne
- Ashley Weaver
- 13-William Adams
- Allison Wiley
- Marc Schroeder
- 16-Marcus Hard
- 17-Tom Giles
- Stone Karle
- 24- George Babcock
- 25-Jeff Gowens
- 26-Tim Borgman
- Cameron Mein
- 27-Shelby VanOrder
- 30-Matt Thiel



April
ANNIVERSARIES

- 17-Mark & JoAnne Giles
- 21-Chris & Patty Anderson
- 23-Nick & Vicki Brower



General Conference 2024



Every four years, United Methodists from around the world gather for a General Conference that will chart the denomination's future.

For the past three years, GC planning has been hampered by the COVID pandemic and resulting travel complications — leading the commission to postpone General Conference three times. The assembly, originally planned for 2020 in Minneapolis, is now scheduled for April 23-May 3, 2024, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The coming General Conference is to have 862 voting delegates — 55.9% from the U.S., 32% from Africa, 6% from the Philippines, 4.6% from Europe and the remainder from concordat churches that have close ties to The United Methodist Church. Half are to be clergy and half laity. Bishops preside at General Conference sessions but do not have a vote. The Michigan Annual Conference is sending 8 elected delegates. More than 1,000 legislative petitions, aiming to shape the denomination's future, will be before the lay and clergy delegates. Details of that legislation can be found at umnews.org, and a printed summary is available at the church.

On many people's minds is the division along theological lines in the denomination, primarily regarding the UMC's stance on LGBTQ+ inclusion (same-sex marriage, ordination, and church membership, to summarize). There were plans to discuss terms of separation at the 2020 General Conference, and much of that legislation will still go before the delegates at the 2024 gathering. However, given that General Conference has been delayed, a separation of sorts already has taken place. Over the past four years, the denomination has seen nearly 7,700 U.S. churches — about a quarter of its U.S. congregations — disaffiliate under a policy approved by the 2019 special General Conference that expired at the end of 2023.

The disaffiliation policy in the Discipline's Paragraph 2553, allowed churches to leave with property "for reasons of conscience" related to homosexuality, if they met certain financial and procedural obligations. The coming General Conference will see petitions to extend Paragraph 2553, so that it can continue to apply in the U.S. and expand to churches in the central conferences. Other petitions seek to enable whole U.S. annual conferences to leave or make it easier for annual conferences in Africa, Europe and the Philippines to do so.

In our Michigan Annual Conference, 84% of churches remain United Methodist, with 126 churches disaffiliating to either join another denomination or exist independently. A full report of these statistics can be found at michiganumc.org.

Here at Allegan UMC, there has been no interest among the Administrative Board to explore disaffiliation, and not enough interest voiced from the congregation for them to do so. One common misconception was that a church had to vote to *remain* United Methodist when, in fact, a vote is *only* needed if a congregation wants to disaffiliate. Those churches wishing to remain don't need to take any action to do so. However, if you have questions or concerns about disaffiliation, please reach out to Pastor Julia, or visit michiganumc.org or umnews.org, for up-to-date and accurate information.

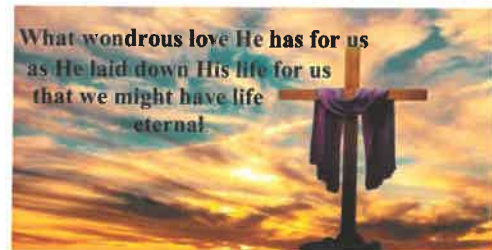
As Heather Hahn, of UM News reported: "Even with so many decisions before delegates, Council of Bishops President Bickerton stressed that General Conference is no simple business meeting. Instead, he urged viewers to see this as "a convening of the Body of Christ to discern the will of God for the future of the church we love."

We invite you to hold our delegates in your prayers, as they do their work!



I have been thinking lately about Jesus and the walk He knowingly took towards the cross. I can't even imagine the stress He was under, and He's the son of God! Jesus was out healing people, serving people, and preparing them for the days ahead when He would no longer be with them. His healings left people awestruck in wonderment. His serving people, such as washing their feet, left them humbled. And his preparing them for a time when He would no longer be with them was unbelievable to those who heard. Nothing we are doing in our lives compares to His journey towards being hung on the cross. The people who rejected Him cried out for His death. The soldiers made fun of Him. One can only imagine the thoughts that were going through His head. He knew the plan, He knew from whence He had come and yet He prayed that the cup might pass from Him. And in His dying moments He cried out "Father, forgive them. They don't know what they are doing." And you know what? He continues to forgive us day after day, week after week, and year after year. What wondrous love He has for us as He laid down His life for us that we might have life eternal. We were not there when He was crucified, we were not there when they nailed Him to the cross, we were not there when they laid Him in the tomb, and we were not there when the stone was rolled away. We know that on the third day He did rise from the dead and that keeps us believing in Him and in His word. As we celebrate "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," and know that "Every Morning is Easter Morning," and know "He Lives," we are blessed beyond measure.

Happy Easter my friends, Judy



United
Women
in Faith

2024 Advocacy Day
Lansing
March 13, 2024

Nearly 250 people attended Advocacy Day held at the State Capitol including Sari Hammon, Pastor Julia, and Cindy Thiele. Believing that health care is a basic human right, advocacy for increased access to care, and eradicate stigma around treatment of *mental health* and *substance use disorder* treatment was the theme. This was a well-planned event with appointment times to meet with one's Senator or Representative, a press conference, box lunch, worship, and tours of a Capitol.

We asked Michigan legislators to pass House Bill 4707 –to expend health insurance to cover *mental health* and House Bills 5371 and 5372 to codify Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics in state law (think of the On Point clinic, located at 540 Jenner Dr., Allegan) and funding for those clinics.



AD BOARD REPORTS

March 21, 2024

Scouting- Amy Brink and Joan Rininger

They overflow the meeting room! There are now 25 scouts in Troop 91 and 13 in Troop 191. Add to the scout numbers the fact that there are more parents volunteering to serve on the Scout Committee, serve as Assisting Scout Masters, and chaperons for camp outings and trips! How exciting – scouting is growing!

One scout has attained his Eagle Scout. There are Advancements happening at the Life, Star, and Tenderfoot levels. The next Court of Honor for badge/rank awards is scheduled for Sunday, April 28.

Future projects: Pinewood Derby was March 17. POP CAN COLLECTION will be held on April 27, 8:00am-4:00pm, at the C-Com location.

Summer camps are in the planning. The girls in 191 have added a stop to Dollywood on their summer camp trip in June. Both troops are planning a cave campout to earn a merit badge. THE BIG EVENT – the troops were chosen to attend a campout at West Point Academy beginning June 30! What an honor! There are 22 youth and 8 adults attending.

Membership-Joan Rininger & Judy Jennings

The numbers for March have not changed. There are 173 members and 55 constituents.

UMW-Cindy Thiele

Pastor Julia, Sari and I attended Advocacy Day at the Capitol for mental health sponsored by the UMC and UWF. Grad breakfast will be May 19th. At this time we have one graduate Audrey Brink.

Hands of Grace Food Pantry- Chris Jurkas

Financial: We currently have \$7,364.54.

Feeding America: The pantry has been approved to proceed to the next step in the partnership process. This includes completing the following documents:

- Partnership Agreement
- \$100 non-refundable application fee
- Signed Agency Agreement
- Signed USDA Agreement
- Signed Policies & Procedures
- Proof of tax-exempt status (Copy of IRS/US kDept. Of Treasury Letter of Determination stating your 501©(3) tax-exempt status—**We do not have this.**)
- Sample outreach materials (how people learn about your programs)
- Annual budget
- Church Denomination or affiliation

Missions- Chris Jurkas

Safe Harbor Child Advocacy Center

April Project of the Month and Communion Donations

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Safe Harbor is a centralized, child friendly facility where victims of child abuse and neglect, age's birth to seventeen years, come to disclose their allegations of abuse.

Services include: On-site Forensic Interviews of Youth Victims, Counseling Services for Victims of Sexual Abuse, Severe Physical Abuse, and/or Domestic Violence, On-site Medical Services, Victim Advocacy, Coordination of the Allegan County Child Abuse Investigation Team.

Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center houses three programs: Beverly Schroeder Advocacy Center, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program, and Prevention Education Program.

Hands of Grace Food Pantry

APRIL Newsletter

Donations:

February: Donations: Peanut Butter Drive: 38 jars , 45 tubes toothpaste, 50 toothbrushes, 2 cereal, 11 peanut butter, 13 rice items, 3 spaghetti sauce 1 soup, 1 great northern bean jar, 1 basil leave jar, 4 tea bags, 1 paper towel, 1 pretzel twist bag, 1 burrito flour tortilla, 1 puffed wheat, 2 single serving oatmeal, 1 sharp cheddar mac & cheese, 64 pop tarts, 2 coffee creamers, 2 shampoo, 3 pkgs sauces, 2 pkgs dressings, 6 scramble kits, 3 protein bars; **Village Market:** 83 sweets, 94 bread, 3 flour tortillas, 60 buns, rolls & bagels, 7 sausage, 11 salsa, 2 Rings of Bologna, 6 bacon, 3 cases of Lunchables, 13 taco shells, 2 bologna 3 ham 3 hash brown, 4 biscuits, 12 salad dressing

NOTE: WE ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO RECEIVE AN ABUNDANCE OF FRESH, FROZEN and CANNED FOOD/SUPPLIES EVERY WEEK/MONTHLY FROM THE FOLLOWING PLACES:

BI-WEEKLY – VILLAGE MARKET

**WEEKLY - FIRST CONGREGATIONAL WAREHOUSE IN ALLEGAN
PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN PULLMAN**

MONTHLY – HUNGRY FOR CHRIST IN HAMILTON

Any type of donation is appreciated, not just the ones listed.

APRIL donation request is:

JELLY or JAM



Financial Corner – March 2024

The Finance team worked very hard to put the 2024 Budget Plan together, thank you for your suggestions and ideas. As you can see the below balances as of the end of February, we are trending in the positive direction.

February 2024 Balances:

General Fund = \$29,607

Trustee Fund = \$30,169

Food Pantry = \$8,995

Memorial Fund = \$7,537

Mutual Fund = \$116,408

The Finance team, along with the Administrative Board has determined to pool their efforts for Fundraisers for 2024 and all money from the two big events will go to the Trustees for the replacement of the Sanctuary roof.

The two events will be:

- 1) Garage Sale on Saturday May 4th
- 2) Dinner and Live Auction – Fall of 2024. More on this later. (Tentative dates are Nov 2 or 9)

Our Goal from these two fundraisers is \$10,000.

The General Fund will receive the proceeds from the Ag/Bake/Craft table – Goal \$2,253

- 1) The Ag/Bake/Craft table will continue this summer starting on Sunday May 26.
- 2) Watch for details for the 26th Ag/Bake Table as there is a good chance that there will be Fish available that day!!

Garage Sale Details – This event will be on Saturday May 4, 2024 – we understand that the city of Allegan will be in disarray – but we have many signs that will be posted in the city and local Businesses. We will put signs with arrows in places on Friday May 3 to help people find us on Saturday May 4. We will have people park in the County parking lot and when done shopping we will have carts and will allow vehicles to come to the entrance of our parking lot to load up.

We will need help again this year with pricing on Wednesday starting at 1:00pm. We will be using the color dots for pricing again this year.

We need both Kitchen help and bakers also – there is a sheet up in the Fellowship hall to sign up on.

Please tell your friends and relatives that we will take most donations of items other than clothes and that we will pick them up if they or you can't get them to the church. Please call the church office 616 673 4236.

We will have spaces for Vender Booths in the fellowship Hall at a cost of \$30 per table, if you know of someone please have them contact Cindy Thiele or Alli Dangremond.

We will have a Bake Goods table and a Food booth of our own. We will be selling Coffee, Pop, Breakfast Rolls, Chili, Hot Dogs and Pop Corn. Please come to the event for the food – The Chili and Cinnamon Rolls ran out last time so we will have more this year !

Advertising will start after Holy weeks are completed. Ads will be in the ACNew, WQXC radio station, Facebook, local businesses and yards signs will be in many places. If you see where we should have a sign please let the Finance team know. Please if you can help at all with the adventure in any way please let us know: May the 4th be with you!! – Who knows who might be in our Church premises – Darth Vader? R2D2? Yoda? Luke Skywalker? Chewy?

The Finance Committee would like to "Thank you" all the people of the Allegan United Methodist Church for your continued Trust and Support.

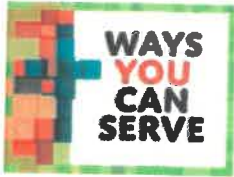
Thank you

The Finance Committee

APRIL

(Volunteer) WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	4/7 Holy Humor Sunday	4/14	4/21	4/28
Pianist	Wende Coffindaffer	Patty Anderson	Ireland Armintrout	Ellen Bierlein
Liturgist	Scott Dangremond	Bill Austin	Elizabeth Closson	Tita Balgoyen
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Tim Borgman DeLaet	Corlee Harris Chris Jurkas	Barb Sanborn Chris Thomas
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Bells
Camera	DeLaet	Rod Rambadt	Sarah Austin	Rod Rambadt
Sound Tech	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink	Amanda Blom	Jon Brink
Media	Amanda Blom	Amanda Blom	DeLaet	DeLaet



🎵 Make me a servant, Humble and meek... 🎵

If you were wondering/praying what you might add to your life this year that would be a positive influence, how about joining in worship by serving in one of the following ways. You can choose the days you are able to serve as well. It *doesn't* get any easier than that. 😊

Sound/Video/Tech: Sunday Mornings
Contact Amanda Blom: woodamanda211@gmail.com

Food Pantry: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.
Contact Chris Jurkas : cjurkas@chartermi.net

Liturgist: Sunday Mornings
Contact Patty Anderson: panderson@alleganps.org

Ushers: Sunday Mornings
Contact Lori Austin: secretary@allumc.org

Chancel Choir: Wednesday nights at 7pm
Directed by Daryl Waggoner: daryl.waggoner@icloud.com

Chancel Bells: Sunday mornings at 10:30am
Directed by Ireland Armintrout:
irelandarmintrout@hotmail.com



Would you like to learn how the camera or sound is run for Sunday Worship?
Amanda Blom will be doing a refresher and training session this coming spring for anyone interested.
More information to come!



Car rides needed for Sunday service for Jeff and Barb
Please the sign-up sheet on the Easel in the Fellowship Hall.
Thank you!



Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Kevin DeLaet, our resident chef extraordinaire. Kevin has delighted us with his mastering of his culinary skills, his managing of the kitchen, and his willingness to plan and organize special meals at our church. His long-sought recipe for spaghetti sauce is secretive, but it is absolutely amazing! Kevin is chairperson of the Staff Parrish Relations Committee and handles the leadership discreetly and has a listening ear on the pulse of the congregation and the staff. He serves on the Administrative Board where he adds his thoughtful comments and asks questions for further discussion. He has been a big part of our many fund raisers and is always willing to help. Kevin, a blessing in our midst, be sure to thank him for his dedicated service to our church



Allegan Community Players Presents:
One Acts Festival April 5th and 6th at 7:00pm
April 7th at 2:00pm
Griswold Auditorium
Cost of Ticket is \$10.
Come support Daryl Waggoner and the ACP actors.



HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY at AUMC

Wear a silly or
mismatched outfit
or costume!

April 7th, 2024
9:30am

Get silly!
Laugh!
Praise God!



Dinner with Sinners (that means us ☺) is a new fellowship opportunity that will meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month. We will dine together and share our life thoughts and experiences which will be prompted by premade questions.

Our 1st gathering will be on **Thursday April 11th at 6:00pm**, at Trestle Stop, 3366 M-40 in Hamilton. We will be ordering off the menu at your own expense.

Please see the signup sheet in the FH, so we can make reservations.

For more information please contact the church office or Ellen Bierlein 269-377-9813.
Won't you come and Chat and Chew with us.



Tuesday April 16th, 4pm. Volunteers please meet in the church parking lot.



Help support the Scouts

POP CAN COLLECTION will be held on Saturday April 27th.
8:00am-4:00pm, at the C- Com location.



AED and CPR classes will be held on **APRIL 25th at 6:00pm-9:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall.
There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall if you are interested in attending or you can call the church office or Deb Heather (269) 806-3365.
There will be a small fee for books and CPR certificate. (\$20-\$25)



Come join the Praise Choir

We currently practice on Wednesday's at 8:15pm. Please meet in the FH if Chancel Choir is still in practice.
If you have any questions please call Ellen Bierlein 269-377-9813.
Throughout the year the Praise choir will lead the congregation in worship songs and may do a few special music pieces as well.

**MAY
THE
4TH
BE WITH
YOU**

As you start this year's Spring cleaning!

Our Church Garage Sale will be held **May 4th 7am-4pm**

Donations can be put in the Bell room downstairs and a pick-up service will be provided on May 2nd and 3rd if you have large item donations. Please call church office to schedule. Proceeds from the sale will be put toward the shingling of our Sanctuary roof.

NEXT MONTH



Do you have an upcoming High School Graduate in your family?

We are looking for graduates in our church family to honor on **May 19th** with a recognition breakfast, and gift. Please give the church office a call with the name of those graduating and how many will be able to attend the breakfast. (269)673-4236.



Interested in becoming a Member of Allegan UMC?

Or maybe you'd like to learn more about UMC or recommit your membership vows?
Please speak with Pastor Julia.



Do you know of anyone who has a home for rent?
We have 2 different members of our church that are looking for a home to rent. If you have any information please contact the church office. Thank you.

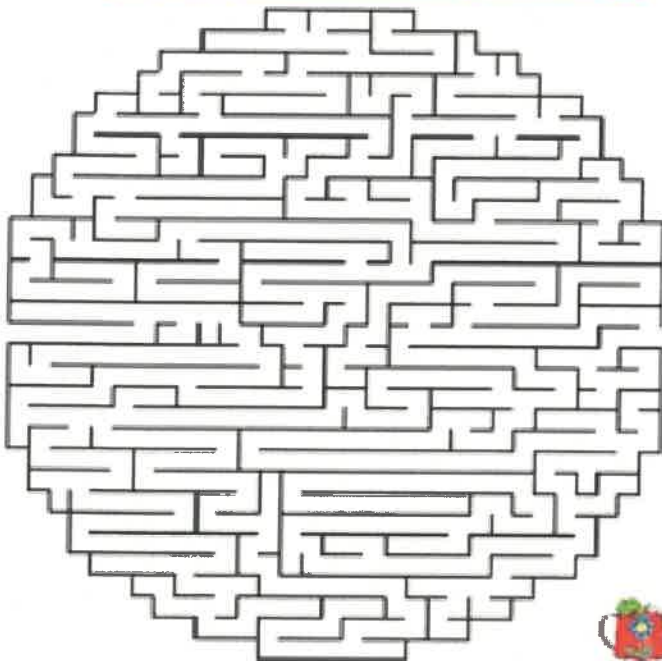


Coffee & Fellowship time is offered the 1st Sunday of each month.
Please see the sign up sheet if you'd like to host a month

NEWS FROM CAMP

2024 ALLEGAN UMC FAMILY CAMP

2024 Family Camp will again be held at Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat near Pentwater. The dates are Saturday, June 29 thru Saturday, July 6. If you haven't already done so, please call the camp at 231-869-5627 to make reservations. Make sure you let them know you are part of the Allegan UMC group. Past campers always have a good time at camp and new campers are welcome.



Fun Facts for April

- *The April gemstone is the diamond
- *The April flower is the Sweet Pea
- *The name "April" is thought to come from the Latin word "aperire" which means "to open" signifying the beginning of Spring
- *The arrival of the Cuckoo bird signifies that Spring is here - the bird will sing from approximately April 14th - April 24th every year
- *The first Sunday of April was formerly known as "Daffodil Sunday" because in Victorian times, people would pick daffodils from their gardens to take to the sick in hospitals
- *Famous fairy tale author Hans Christian Anderson was born on April 2nd
- *Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21st