

Allegan United Methodist Church - June



HEALTH CONCERNS:

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

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

Alyssa Chamberlain, Andrew Cowen, Stephanie Hadley, Isaiah Hadley, Kyrel Hall, Jacob DeBruyne, and Dan Wrobleski.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THOSE BATTLING CANCER OR HAVING TREATMENT:

Hanford Brink, 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.



- 6-Eilene Brink
- Terry Brink
- Sarah Austin
- 8-Joyce Brink
- 9-Tessa Armintrout
- 14-Ray Kinney
- Bailey Weaver
- 15-William Armintrout
- 18-Ami Salisbury
- 21-James Flynn
- 22-June Fullerton
- 23-David Armintrout
- Jack Rininger
- 26-Karen Rambadt
- 27-Barb Simpson
- Rhoda Griffin
- 28-Pastor Julia Humenik
- 30-Nancy Armintrout



- 1-Joshua and Amanda Blom
- 10-Rick and Linda Flynn
- 29-Willard and Judy Jennings
- David and Nancy Armintrout





Dear Allegan UMC Family,

As I mentioned in my last letter, April 23-May 3rd General Conference gathered in Charlotte, North Carolina. General conference is the top lawmaking assembly of the UMC, made up of delegates from around the world, and convenes every four years – (this one having been delayed multiple years due to Covid-19, that is why you may often hear it referred to as the 2020 General Conference, even though it took place in 2024).

If you listened to either church or secular news, there's no doubt you are aware of the historic decisions that were made at this GC. The full summary of all legislation that was passed can be found online at <https://www.resourceumc.org>, and some hard copies are available at the church.

However, there were two major categories of decisions that I'd like to take a moment to address, and hopefully demystify.

1. The plan for **Regionalization** was approved, which is a major restructuring of the denomination. Regionalization paves the way for countries, like the United States, to become their own central conference. This would allow for more contextual ministry, would celebrate that we are not an American denomination but a *worldwide* denomination, and would permit the church in the US to make its own decisions regarding domestic operations and mission, without requiring global input. **This does not mean** that we'll have our own denomination, or a completely different Book of Discipline. We would still be connected through shared mission and the essentials of faith, with only parts of the Book of Discipline and Social Principles being open to change, based on our U.S. context. **This still needs to be approved** by 2/3 of voters in every Annual Conference around the world. Some Annual Conferences will have the chance to vote on it this year, while others will have to wait for next year, depending on when they gather.
2. The delegates also voted **by overwhelming majorities** to remove from our Book of Discipline discriminatory language and bans related to ministry by, with, and for "self-avowed practicing" gay and lesbian people. We removed language that called the practice of homosexuality "incompatible with Christian teaching," as well as a 40 year-old ban on the ordination and appointment of homosexual clergy. We also removed any language that forbids, or enforces penalties on, clergy who perform same-sex weddings or churches who host same-sex weddings. We also added provisions that no church funds may be given to anything that rejects LGBTQ persons or limits the response to the HIV epidemic. **This does not mean** that all UM churches are *required* to have a LGBTQ pastor if offered one, *nor* that all UM churches are *required* to allow same-sex weddings within their buildings. This decision belongs to the individual church, and, as usual, our Bishop and their cabinet will still consult with each individual church in determining which pastor would make the best fit for their ministry. **These changes** merely bring the Book of Discipline to a **neutral** place, where no single group of people is singled out for discrimination. It holds space for differing opinions within the denomination by avoiding broad mandates. Finally, a **note**: There was a misunderstanding that these decisions still needed to be ratified by Annual Conferences – that is incorrect. They went into effect at the close of this General Conference.

I'm aware that many are ecstatic about point #2, while many others are dismayed. And others perhaps are working through a curious mix of emotions. I don't desire to tell you how to feel about these decisions, and I wish to, as mentioned above, hold space for differing opinions. The reality is that Allegan UMC as a congregation will, at some point, need to determine a few things in order to know how to proceed in certain situations, should they arise. For example: If a same-sex couple sought to get married in our sanctuary, would AUMC host them? If the District Superintendent told you there was a gay pastor who was looking for a church appointment, and wondered if AUMC would welcome them as their pastor, what would AUMC say? While you are under no time constraints to address these hypotheticals, nor should the decision be made quickly or without serious consideration, it's nonetheless valuable for the church to have these answers before the occasion arises, rather be scrambling for answers in the moment. SPRC and leadership will be discussing how we might best have these conversations, and I invite you to be open and compassionate in them when they do happen.

Personally, I'll share that I see both points 1 & 2 as opportunities for great hope and growth. Growth, not in numbers of persons in UMC pews (though I certainly wouldn't mind that being a byproduct), but for spiritual growth, connectional growth, the kind of growth that speaks to renewal and new possibilities. Particularly speaking on the

decision to remove discriminatory language, I don't think we can ever error on the side of being "too loving" or offering "too much grace". This will be the first time in UMC history that our Book of Discipline doesn't contain *any* language that discriminates against a group of people. I, for one, am immensely proud of us for that. I also believe that, whatever the future structure of the denomination looks like, whatever decisions or stances AUMC makes, the Holy Spirit will be moving and working in it.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Julia

"I would like to conclude by sharing my hope that our United Methodist Church will be able to focus more freely on staying centered in the risen Christ and staying grounded in our Scriptures. I hope we will focus on engaging, in Spirit-filled ways, in the mission to which we are called, making disciples of Jesus Christ so that people can experience the healing and freeing grace of God in their lives and so that the world may be made more just, loving, and compassionate."

~ Bishop David Bard, Michigan Annual Conference



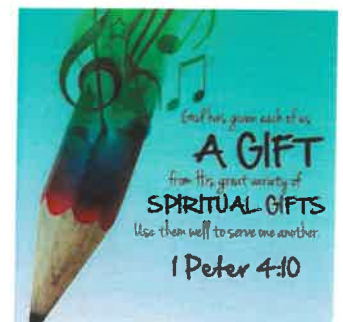
Our church will be holding memorials for two members who each gave to this church the gifts of their time, service, and talents.

June Smith, the tea party lady, passed away after a long struggle with memory issues. She lovingly taught little girls, of all ages, the proper manners one should use at a tea party. Every year, the first Saturday in May, she invited ladies and girls to come to her home in the woods and share in the art of drinking tea and eating very special goodies that she lovingly prepared. She would sit at the end of the table in her

hat and gloves and pour tea, asking if you wanted one lump or two of the sugar cubes. All the fancy sandwiches and delectable pastries were displayed on beautiful China or glass plates and everyone had a China tea cup. My granddaughter Melissa loved going to Grandma June's, as she was so lovingly called. There were times I picked Melissa up from a soccer match and she would wash up and change clothes on the way to the tea party. Those in attendance dressed up and many had hats on, which were part of Cindy Thiele's collection. Many years, as we were leaving, teaspoons were handed out as June had collected them through the years. June Smith left a lasting impression on all those, who attended over the years, and I think of her when I lift my cup of tea to my lips. June was a member of the Mary Martha Circle, and the choir and her beautiful soprano voice was heavenly and wherever she was and wherever she went she hummed. Can't you picture her in heaven hosting a tea party?

Norm Pierson was the music man as he directed our Chancel Choir and brought the joy of the hand bells to our church, which he directed. He was a leader in our church and was a Bethel Bible teacher. He and Margaret were active members as they were part of Partnership Group and Margaret was a Sarah Circle member. He was the Middle School band director and taught kids the joy of learning to play an instrument. Many of those students stayed with Norm all through Middle and High School and, as adults, they are still playing their instruments. Several small groups branched off from band and Norm could be found either directing them or playing among them. Our own Jan Edgerton grew up under Norm's leadership and became band director at Galesburg-Augusta. She kept in touch with him and even visited him while he was in a care home as he truly left his mark on her. Norm left his mark on so many students as he was gentle, kind, patient, and he just knew any kid could learn to play an instrument. He always wanted to know how you were, how your kids were doing, and where they were at. He marched to his own beat and I bet heaven has had some heavenly music since he arrived.

Blessings my friends, Judy



AD BOARD REPORTS

May 23, 2024

Scouting- Amy Brink and Joan Rininger

A double celebration was held this month – Maria Skrycki was honored at her Eagle Scout ceremony not just for the achievement of Eagle Scout but also as the first female in Troop 9s to have achieved this status. Maria joins her brother Joe as an Eagle Scout plus she has two younger brothers and one younger sister that are working towards this rank!

Summer activities for the troop are on their very active calendar. They continue with their fund raisers as well as week-end campouts and other activities to achieve badges towards rank moves. It is great to see the number of scouts increase. Also, on June 9 there will be another Eagle Scout ceremony to acknowledge Scout Brodie Morton reaching the rank of Eagle Scout!

Membership-Joan Rininger & Judy Jennings

AUMC membership is 171 (recorded on death this month – June Smith). There are 55 constituents listed.

UMW-Cindy Thiele

We had one graduate, Audrey Brink. Instead of a breakfast there were treats after worship to honor Audrey and family.

I will be travelling with women throughout the state to Indianapolis for the North Central Jurisdiction of UWF the end of May. This is a nine state 3 day convention.

SPRC-Kevin DeLaet

Meeting held - Now working on custodial leave schedule, other minutes confidential

Pastor Julia

- AUMC will have a booth at Bridgefest, on June 8, 2024. A sign-up sheet will be found in the Fellowship Hall for volunteers to set up, man the table, and tear-down. We will be providing information about our church, promotional stickers, and some candy/toys.
- Pastor Julia, Mark Bolyen, Sari Hammon, and Daryl Waggoner will be attending Annual Conference, the last week of May, in Traverse City.
- With the many decisions made at General Conference, a summary of the legislation passed can be found in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor will provide a pastoral letter on the subject in the June Newsletter.

Worship-Pastor Julia

- Sunday June 30th, morning worship will be a special Praise Service, with praise music and folks sharing short stories of praise. In the coming weeks, the bulletin will contain a form for those who would like to request certain praise songs, and an opportunity for folks to sign up if they have a praise story they'd like to share.

Hands of Grace Food Pantry- Chris Jurkas & Rod Rambadt

Financial: We currently have \$6,218.12. Our Grants Coordinator is working on a grant with Allegan County Community Foundation Legacy Grant to assist in funding dinners (high protein food) and personal items.

We received \$1,000 in grant funds from Great Lakes Energy People Fund to assist in purchasing food and personal care items.

Postal Food Drive: The Vine Food Pantry (Christ Community Church) received all the donated items from the drive and they split the items with the other pantries in Allegan. We received 725 lbs of food—615 items!



JUNE MISSIONS PROJECT OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:

CHILDREN'S BACKPACK PROGRAM-IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Immanuel Lutheran Church is hoping to provide every Dawson student with a backpack and supplies through the fourth grade.

That is about 450 backpacks and supplies.

Let us help them reach their goal. Please donate the following items:

- Fiskars scissors**
- Glue sticks**
- Crayola crayons**
- Crayola broad-tip markers**
- Highlighters**
- Large box tissues**
- Clorox disinfecting wipes**
- Hand sanitizer**
- Spiral notebook (70 sheets)**
- Black, low-odor dry erase markers**
- Backpacks**

We will have a special labeled box for any supplies.

Any cash donations will be mailed to the Immanuel Lutheran Church. Thank you for your support.

Financial Corner – May 2024

The Finance team has worked very hard towards the 2024 Budget Plan and has completed the Garage Sale with the help of everyone. Sunday morning breakfasts was also held and thank you to the DeLaet Family for a wonderful meal on Sunday May 5. As you can see the below balances as of the end of April, we are trending in the positive direction.

April 2024 Balances:

General Fund = \$31,933

Trustee Fund = \$36,926

Food Pantry = \$6,163

Memorial Fund = \$7,537

Mutual Fund = \$117,365

The Dinner and Live Auction Fundraiser is being planned over the next couple of months the date will be either Nov 2 or Nov 9. All money from this big event will also go to the Trustees for the replacement of the Sanctuary roof. Goal for this event is \$5,000.

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 June 2.
- 2) Watch for details for the June 2nd Ag/Bake Table as there is a good chance that there will be Fish available that day!!

Garage Sale Details – This event was held on Saturday May 4, 2024 – we understood that the city of Allegan would be in disarray – but we put up many signs that were posted in the city and local Businesses. We put signs with arrows in places on Friday May 3 to help people find us on Saturday May 4. We had people park in the County parking lot and when they were done shopping we had carts from Village Market and people used them to take their items to their cars and we allowed vehicles to come to the entrance of our parking lot to load up.

We had a lot of fun as the Date of May 4th allowed us to tag onto the Star Wars theme. We had 4 people that dressed up at 8:00, 10:00 and at noon in familiar costumes from Star Wars. Many people came and got their pictures taken with cast.

Darth Vader – Tim Dickinson

Chewbacca - Bill Austin

Princess Leia – Sarah Austin

Luke Skywalker – Scott Dangremond

Breakdown of the Sales from the Garage Sale Event:

Kitchen Sales - \$419

Bake Goods - \$785.37

Garage Sale – \$3,607

Outside Donation - \$120

Vendor Booths - \$180

Total = \$5111.37

Thank you to everyone for your donations of items and to the cooks and bakers and to those that worked so diligently throughout this event.

If this was not enough for this weekend – the DeLaet Family the following morning put on a fantastic Breakfast for us all to participate in after Church. The food was very good and the fellowship that was shared was priceless. This event raised \$786.75 towards the Roof Fund.

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



Give, and it will be given to you.

Luke 6:38

Church and Parsonage Expenses-April

Income \$11,845.67

102	Ministry Shares (POM March, UMCOR)	\$	386.68
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	661.24
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,778.00
601	Bartz Rumery	\$	1,767.50
602	City of Allegan	\$	57.44
602	Charter Communications	\$	257.70
602	Michigan Gas	\$	284.67
602	Consumers Energy	\$	612.82
602	Republic Services	\$	270.22
605	Lawn and Snow	\$	308.32
606	Andy's Ace Hardware (church maintenance)	\$	6.59
702	Smart Business Source (copy Paper)	\$	181.17
703	US Postmaster (1 roll of 100 stamps)	\$	68.00
703	Post Master (Bulk Permit Annual Fee)	\$	320.00
705	Joan Rininger (start up cash May 4 th Garage Sale)	\$	700.00
709	Printer Machine Maintenance (Konica Minolta)	\$	230.00
903	Upper Room	\$	88.41
903	Cokesbury (Communion cups)	\$	29.04
2100	IRS (correction in payroll taxes)	\$	2,340.61
	WAGES	\$	8,306.19
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR APRIL	\$	18,654.60

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	70.55
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	104.98
603	Michigan Gas	\$	100.37
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR APRIL	\$	275.90
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$	18,930.50



This year's "Change Jar" donations will go toward our Church Trustees budget to help with the upkeep of our Sanctuary and property.

For the month of April we collected \$50.00.

We will continue with the "Change Jars" through out this year.

Thank you.

AG/BAKE TABLE IS BACK!

Stop by the table in the FH after Sunday worship to see what goodies we have.



JUNE

WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	6/2	6/9	6/16	6/23	6/30
Pianist	Wende Coffindaffer	Patty Anderson	Ireland Armintrout	Ellen Bierlein	Lisa Campeau
Liturgist	Kathie Arney	Sari Hammon	Lisa Campeau	Scott Dangremond	Sari Hammon
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Grace Switzer Barb Sanborn	DeLaets	Tim Borgman DeLaets	Chris Thomas Joan Rininger
Music	Chancel Choir Bells	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Camera	Rod Rambadt	Sarah Austin	Sarah Austin	Rod Rambadt	DeLaet
Sound Tech	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman	Amanda Blom	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink
Media	DeLaet	Samantha McPharlin Amanda Blom	DeLaet	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, and 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



Toward the end of June and into August our Media/Sound Lead will be out on maternity leave. Please bear with us as our Media Team does their best to provide you with worship online and in person.



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



The Volunteer Spotlight shines on Ellen Bierlein. Ellen has come back to our church and brought her gifts and graces to share with us. She helps at the Hands of Grace Food Pantry as an intake person and also helps with the food delivery on Fridays. As an intake person she asks if the client would like her to pray with them and many have been touched by that. She brought her beautiful voice to the choir and has started a Praise Choir, which we are all enjoying. Recently she started a friendship group called "Dinner with Sinners," sounds like those that attended enjoyed it very much. Ellen, a blessing in our midst, be sure to thank her when you see her.



NEEDED Special Music for summer worship.

If you know of anyone who'd like to share their musical gifts with us, during our Sunday worship, please see the sign-up sheet on the easel in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office. 269-673-4236

Special Music begins Sunday June 9th and goes through Sunday September 8th.



Norm Pierson Celebration of Life

Saturday June 1st at 1:00pm

Light refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall after the service.



Everyone is invited to celebrate Audrey Brink's Graduation Open House.

Saturday, June 8th

3pm-6pm at the church



CELEBRATE FAITH NIGHT. Friday, June 14th at 6:35pm. Tickets start at \$14 for game tickets.

\$27 for game and faith night after party tickets.

Call (2689) 492-7410 or email joe@growlersbaseball.com



June 20th Sarah Circle will meet at the Grill House for lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Those planning to attend should call Judy Jennings, 673-4989



On Sunday, June 30th our 9:30 am worship will be a service dedicated to worshipping our God through Praise! We will sing, speak and lift our praises to our Amazing Lord and Savior.

In the June 2nd bulletin there will be an insert to share with us your favorite songs of praise so we can sing them on that day. We are also hoping to have a few people in our congregation share a 3 - 5 minute testimony of praise for what God has done in his/her life. The pastor will not be

preaching this Sunday, but we will be worshipping!

We hope you can join us in this joyful experience of Praise and Praise alone!

Get Connected



Dinner with Sinners (that means us 😊) is taking the summer off.
Keep a lookout for September's meal date.

For more information please contact the church office or Ellen Bierlein 269-377-9813.



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



Do you know of anyone who has a home for rent?

We have a member of our church that is looking for a home to rent. If you have any information please contact the church office. Thank you.

UPCOMING



Experience Greece and the Splendors of Egypt

Bishop David Bard and his wife Julie lead a 10-day tour November 10-20. The group will experience Athens and Corinth, with a focus on the ministry of the Apostle Paul throughout the region. Then, travel to Cairo for a Nile Cruise experience, with a focus on selected Old Testament scriptures. The tour finishes in Cairo, with time at the Museum of Egyptian Antiquities and an unforgettable visit to the Pyramids of Giza - including the opportunity to ride a camel into the desert area! The group will experience daily devotions and worship directly tied into the daily itinerary. There will be time for discussion, reflection and conversation as the group travels together. Pricing from Detroit starts at \$4,798 (pricing can also be arranged from Grand Rapids) and includes round trip international airfare, hotel, motor coach transportation, daily breakfast and dinner, professional tour guides, entrance fees and more! Need assistance? Please contact Project Coordinator Rev. Ann Emerson at (810)334-5799 or annbythelakeshore@gmail.com.