



Allegan United Methodist Church –November



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Willard Jennings, Emberly DeBruyne, Jim Elmore, Karen Rouse, June Fullerton, Trevah Dalrymple, Wrenley Harris, Shari Bradley, Tim Closson, and Ed Garvin.

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

Alan Letson, Landon Jones, Alyssa Chamberlain, Andrew Cowen, Stephanie Hadley, Isaiah Hadley, Kyrel Hall, Jacob DeBruyne, and Dan Wroblewski.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THOSE

BATTLING CANCER OR HAVING TREATMENT:

Savanna Wood, 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.



1-Matt Milbocker
3-Dan Barber
 Nancy Peabody
 Lisa Silver Cassidy
5-Cord Myers
6-Deb Heather
8-Mindy Sturman
9-Wesley Adams
11-Sandy Oetman
12-Trevah Dalrymple
 Rod Rambadt
15-Alex Foune
17-Sari Hammon

19-Willard Jennings
21-Jon Brink
22-Emmie Babcock
 Sonja Elmore
23-Ellie Clark
 Bob Parrish
26-Janet Earle
27-Camry Powell
30-John Barber

3-Mark & Deb Heather
5-Jim & Wende Coffindaffer

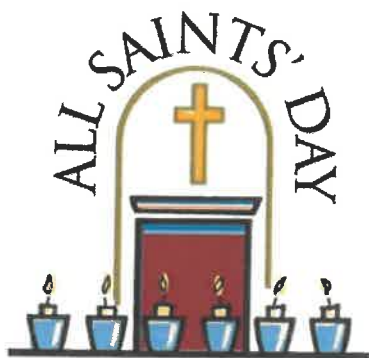


The seasons they are a-changing as Fall has come to the porch. The summer plants have been exchanged for mums, a lighted pumpkin, and a sign that says "autumn praise, share the harvest." My porch is partly put away for winter but not quite all of it as I am holding out for some more nice days. Sitting on the porch now I see trees once laden with colored leaves beginning to look barren. I have raked once but you would never know now that I did as the back yard is covered again. Fall sports are almost over and a new season is about to begin. All too soon the seasons change and I'm not always ready. How like life the seasons are; as we just get used to one thing, the next day it's changed. Fall for some folks brings darkness into their lives and I think it's due to the lack of sunshine. The one true thing we can depend on not changing is God's love for us as He daily surrounds us with gifts of life, gifts of hope, and gifts of believing on Him as He is the one true God. He knows our need before we ask, He knows our pain even before we feel it, and He knows our sorrows and is ready to comfort us. He shares our joys and rejoices with us. I believe He would rather we did not have war, experience death of a loved one, feel the pain of separation due to anger, or deal with the devastating diseases that plaque us. I do believe He is always there to comfort us in whatever changes take place in our lives. There goes that word again, change. Thank You God for helping me accept the changes that have come into my life as not all are good, but with Your help I have and will learn to live with the ones that have come my way this year. My thanksgiving prayer for you is to be thankful in All things knowing we do not walk this road of life alone as someone Always walks beside us and holds our hand.

- Blessings my friends, Judy



Remembering loved ones that have gone on before us



November 2023-October 2024

Jordan Bishop
Tom Dunning
Andy Branham
Phyllis Niswender
Mike Walsh
Robert E. Waychoff
Roger Rininger
Pat Dalrymple Thomas

Norm Pierson
June Smith
Dick Rasmussen
Craig Blom
Harry Irvine
Rodger Allen Smith
Peggy Milbocker
Carrie Morgan Penny



Courageous Conversations Events

At the 2024 General Conference, discriminatory language was removed from the United Methodist Book of Discipline that previously forbid the ordination of LGBTQ clergy as well as imposed penalties on UM Churches who hosted same-sex weddings, and UM pastors who officiated said weddings. The result is that now local UM churches are free to choose how they want to engage in these

changes, without any penalties one way or the other.

Which leaves Allegan UMC with some questions to consider:

- If the church was waiting for a new pastor, and the District Superintendent or Bishop's Cabinet called SPRC and said "We have a qualified pastor for you, they are gay/lesbian/trans, is Allegan UMC open to receiving them as their pastor?" **What answer would Allegan UMC give?**
- If a same-sex couple contacted the pastor and said: "We would like to get married and are looking for a church venue, is yours available?" **What answer would Allegan UMC wish the pastor to give?**

These are all questions that would benefit having well thought-out answers in advance, and it's clear that AUMC may not be all of the same mind on what those answers might be.

However, before any decision is made, before any surveys given or votes taken, ***we must first learn how to talk with one another on this subject.***

That is why we will be holding two "Courageous Conversations Events". One in November 2024 and one in January 2025.

What is Courageous Conversations? CC is a intentional, guided conversation even, highly structured by a curriculum, that fosters and encourages vulnerable, honest, and grace-filled conversation about difficult topics in congregational settings. It's meant to teach folks how to talk about things they may disagree about, and in the process hopefully build compassion and trust in the church family, despite differences of opinion. We learn how to talk to one another in love, and hear about one another's experiences.

(If you Google "Courageous Conversations UMC" you will find introductions and further information on this program.

What ISN'T Courageous Conversations? CC isn't a debate, it isn't a time to convince anyone of anything, or decide anything. The carefully structured curriculum in place to prevent diatribes, lectures, or arguments.

*****When is the first Courageous Conversation Event?**

November 16, 2024, 10am-12pm, at Allegan UMC

Refreshments to be provided.

*This event is not open to the general public, only to members/constituents/attendees of Allegan UMC.

AD BOARD REPORTS

October 24, 2024

Scouting- Joan Rininger

The scout troops are winding up the fall activities and looking forward to the “winter games” – snow campout, fund raisers, projects for Merit badges, and much more. They had a fund raiser at the Allegan Pizza Hut this month and will be having another one next January. The excitement is building for the trip to Switzerland!

Membership-Joan Ringer and Judy Jennings

As of October 17, 2024, the AUMC has a membership of 168 with 54 constituents.

SPRC-Kevin DeLaet

SPRC met and kept confidential minutes.

We will begin our employee reviews this month

UWF- Cindy Thiele

As part of the Board of Congregational life committee, I'm on the Vibrancy team. Three of us rewrote the Vibrancy website information during a zoom meeting.

* I'm attending the Michigan UWFaith Annual Conference in Essexville October 25-26.

*Bazaar is Saturday December 7.

Missions-Chris Jurkas

November Project of the Month is: Ministry Shares

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: We currently have \$1,104.54 in our account.

Donation request for November: Jelly/Jam



November 2024 Mission Project of the Month

Ministry Shares

How we connect together in ministry

United Methodists in Michigan give more than \$14 million each year to mission and ministry. These gifts are known as, Ministry Shares; because we share some of the gifts God has blessed us with. Ministry Shares are assigned to each church by the Conference as that church's fair share of the combined ministry. Together we support the work of the United Methodist Church in mission and ministry. 75% of all gifts support Michigan programs with less than 18% going toward administration costs. These gifts provide vital support to a wide range in ministry and mission in Michigan and around the world including programs for children, youth and young people. Supporting world outreach providing food, water and shelter. Support to our clergy moving expenses, grants to struggling churches, new church startups, pastor education, and mission grants.

Please help us support our Ministry Shares goal

HANDS OF GRACE FOOD PANTRY November Need: Jelly/Jam



Church and Parsonage Expenses-September

Income \$15,547.64

102	Michigan after the Storm (July POM)	\$	125.00
102	Gateway Missions (August POM)	\$	190.00
165	July & August Ministry Shares	\$	40.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	661.24
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,778.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	357.08
602	Charter Communications	\$	275.97
602	Michigan Gas	\$	40.16
602	Consumers Energy	\$	650.28
602	Republic Services	\$	215.12
606	Andy's Ace Hardware	\$	148.51
705	CCLI (Worship Cast License)	\$	327.00
709	Printer Machine Maintenance (Konica Minolta)	\$	230.00
960	Village Market (Friendship Sunday)	\$	11.68
1006	Sunday School Study books	\$	12.73
	WAGES	\$	8,501.90
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR SEPTEMBER	\$	13,564.67

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	167.16
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	117.98
603	Michigan Gas	\$	16.92
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR SEPTEMBER	\$	302.09

TOTAL (NON-AUDITED) \$ 13,866.76



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 SEPTEMBER we collected \$51.00.

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

Thank you.



Financial Corner - November 2024

The Finance team would like to announce the plans for the 2025 Stewardship program.

This year we are planning the:

Say Yes -The Power of Generosity – This program will be the four Sundays in November with the actual Pledge Date of Sunday December 1. These Sermons will very insightful and interesting and hopefully make us all think about Generosity.

There will be two Sundays in November where members of our church will speak for a couple of minutes about their involvement with the Church.

On Sunday November 24 – members of the Finance team will stay after the service to answer question from the congregation – while “Hanging the Greens”.

The week of November 11 a letter and Pledge cards will be mailed to the congregation.

The Finance team continues to work very hard towards the 2024 Budget and has plans for a Lasagna Dinner and Live and Silent Auction for Saturday November 9.

The Dinner will consist of Lasagna, salad, garlic or cheese bread, desert and drink. Live Auction and Silent auction will follow the lasagna dinner. Signup sheets are up for people to donate items for the Auctions. The dinner will be from 5:00 pm – 7:00pm. Auctions will start at approximately 7:00pm. 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 Ag/Bake/Craft table has a Goal of \$2,253 this year. We exceeded our goal with \$2,404 – thank you to all of you for making this happen.

September 2024 Balances:

General Fund = \$27,953

Trustee Fund = \$23,019

Food Pantry = \$1,726

Memorial Fund = \$8,919

Mutual Fund = \$106,214

The Trustees Fund has reduced significantly as they paid the Roof replacement invoice \$52,637.

The \$20,000 from the Mutual Fund will be paid back to the Mutual fund in \$5,000 increments over time.

The Trustee Committee is now looking into repairs in the Sanctuary; they hope to have quotes soon.

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

**Financial Update 9/30/2024
2023 vs 2024**

To date this has a very good year for AUMC. Thank you all very much for your generosity!

- **In 2023 we had \$9,000 in fund raisers that all went toward our General Operation expenses. However, in 2024 most all our fund raising went to the Trustee's Account and their much-needed roof replacement project.**
- **The one 2024 General Fund fundraiser, the Ag/Bake table, made \$700 (40%) more in 2024 than in 2023.**
- **In 2024, we were blessed with a \$5,000 equitable compensation grant by the conference to help pay pastor compensation costs.**
- **To date in 2024, pledge gifts from our congregation have exceeded 2023 giving's by \$24,000 (16%). Thank you so much!**
- **Saving on expenses has been goal for our team. We have reduced expenses \$5,000 YTD (3.6%) versus 2023.**

Thanks again as we hope to keep the trend going. Closing the year and Advent season out on a positive note!

Your Finance Team





WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24
Pianist	Wende Coffindaffer	Ellen Bierlein	Sari Hammon	Patty Anderson
Liturgist	Tim Dickinson	Daryl Waggoner	Ellen Bierlein	Mark Bolyen
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Chris Jurkas Tim Borgman	Kevin Beth Anne DeLaet	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Bells
Camera	Sarah Austin	Rod Rambadt	DeLaet	TBA
Sound tech	Amanda Blom	John DeLaet	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman
Media	Samantha McPharlin	Amanda Blom	DeLaet	Samantha M.



✠ **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

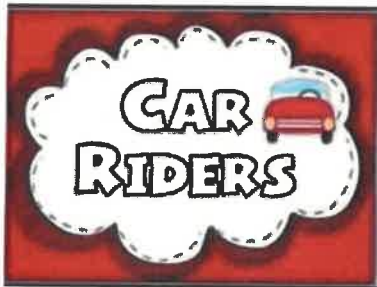
Food Pantry: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.
Contact Chris Jurkas : cjurkas@chartermi.net

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



Ivan Niswender is back in our area and would like to attend worship. If you are able to assist in giving him a ride to Sunday worship please call him at 574-306-7775. (This is the number we have on file or call Briarwood Assistant living 620 Ely Street and they should be able to help you. 269-673-9536)

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 Rick Bierlein. Rick is husband to Ellen and attends Immanuel Lutheran Church but volunteers at our Hands of Grace Food Pantry. He often works on Wednesday nights, so the ladies have a male in attendance. He has been known to help a client, who has walked to the pantry, carry home their food items. He has also been seen bringing the garbage cans, from across the street, to the back of the church. On Fridays he has driven the Food Pantry truck to pick up food from the warehouse. One of his greatest skills is dismantling the many boxes that accumulate throughout the week. Rick Bierlein a blessing in our midst, be sure to thank him for all he does.



Get an extra hour of sleep
Before going to bed on Saturday November 2nd, remember to...
Turn **BACK** your clocks 1 HOUR



Lasagna Fundraiser and Silent Auction
Saturday November 9th, 5-7pm.
Eat in or Take away available.
Call church office to make reservation.
(Reservation is for food prep headcount)



Dinner with Sinners (that means us 😊) is a fellowship opportunity that will meet monthly.
We will dine together and share our life thoughts and experiences which will be prompted by premade questions.
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 12th at 6:00pm.
The 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 have an approximate headcount for our 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.

DECORATE
the church

Help us decorate the trees for Hanging of the Greens. Trees will go up Saturday, November 23rd and ornaments will be added throughout the worship service on Sunday, November 24th.



Our secretary Lori Austin will be out-of-office November 11th-29th for the birth of 1st grandbaby in South Carolina.
Filling in for her is Amanda Blom, Judy Jennings and Linda Flynn.



***Needed:** We are looking for someone to head the prayer shawl ministry. One does not need to be a knitter. Basically it involves being aware of who may need a shawl and choose one from our current supplies. Please let the office know if you are interested.



Nursery Volunteer Help

AUMC would like to improve its nursery care experience for young families by instituting a schedule of qualified volunteers to care for children in the nursery. All Nursery volunteers will be asked to complete a background check and online training.

If you're interested, please contact the office or Pastor Julia!

UPCOMING



Advent begins Sunday December 1st.

We are looking for people willing to read the Advent readings and light the candles on the Advent wreath during our worship services.

Sunday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 24th evening Christmas Eve worship.

Please contact the office if you are able to serve.



Bazaar Is Less than a Month Away
The United Methodist Women's Bazaar is set for
SATURDAY December 7th 8:30am-12:30pm

Are you planning to donate...Shop?

What can you create? Soups, Breads, Pies, Baked Goods, Candies, Can Goods...

What is your specialty/craft? Knitting, crocheting, sewing, painting, Pinterest items and other crafts...

COME BE A PART OF THE BAZAAR- By giving of your talents, time and/or shopping.



Are you cleaning out your cupboards? Bring your items to the TREASURE ROOM
Items may be brought downstairs to our designated Treasure Room.

(Downstairs at end of hall, Room #6)

Items **MUST BE CLEAN AND UNBROKEN ITEMS AND NO CLOTHING PLEASE**

Please bring in By Sunday, December 1st

(Please do not bring anything down after this date)

Thank you.





Sarah Circle Christmas Gathering is planned for Thursday December 19th at 1:00pm.
Please bring a food item to share, and a white elephant gift (in a BROWN PAPER Bag).



We will be hosting Carols by Candlelight on Sunday December 15 at 6:00 pm.
Fellowship and refreshment will follow in the Fellowship Hall.



The Longest Night church service
Saturday December 21st at 6:00 pm



Christmas Eve Candle Light Service
Tuesday December 24th at 7:00 pm

Fun Section

WORD SEARCH CROSSWORD
Thanksgiving day

T	H	P	K	C	B	E	K	M	S					
R	A	S	S	T	F	T	G	A	A					
Z	T	C	W	I	K	U	W	Y	Q					
P	B	A	V	H	C	R	H	F	Z					
U	N	R	J	A	O	K	E	L	A					
M	A	E	Z	R	R	E	A	O	C					
P	T	C	Z	V	N	Y	T	W	V					
K	I	R	Y	E	R	O	W	E	X					
I	V	O	L	S	P	I	E	R	U					
N	E	W	F	T	I	P	A	R	L					

NATIVE
HAT
CRANBERRIES
CORN
MAYFLOWER
PIE
TURKEY
SCARECROW
WHEAT
HARVEST
PUMPKIN

