



## *Allegan United Methodist Church –January 2025*

### **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:**

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



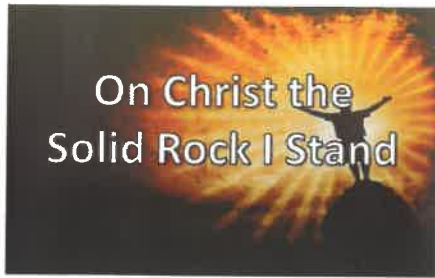
If you have any joys or concerns you would like announced on the live stream Sunday Service, please contact the church office(phone/email) no later than 11:30 a.m. Thursdays.



13-Tim and Lori Dickinson

- 7-Hunter Weeks
- 9-Morgan Foune
- 10- Don Forster
- 11-Adriana Brink
- Chase Milbocker
- 14-David Oetman
- 16-Mark Heather
- 17-Alex McQuaid Norton
- 18-Janelle Adams Corke
- 20-Beth Ann DeLaet
- 22-Jim Sebright
- 25-Lydia Walsh
- 26-Lisa Campeau
- 28-Memphis Fontanez
- 29-Margaret Pierson
- 31-Ed Garvin





As we end 2024 and begin 2025 we wonder what the New Year holds. Perhaps 2024 was not the greatest year as some experienced health issues, financial problems, loss of job, separation of family, and said goodbye to a loved one. Last year was filled with political rhetoric that seemed to go on forever as we were bombarded from all sides with phone calls, mailings, commercials, and promises. Now that that is all behind us we shall see if the promises made come true. Perhaps your family fared well in 2024 and you were blessed with a memorable

year. We welcomed two new great grandchildren as Johnathan David was born in June and Norah Mae was born in December. New life always is a blessing but we wonder what kind of world these little ones were born into. Will they experience war, floods, killing viruses, and oh so much more. I believe it's up to us to prepare the way for them and do our best to make this world a better place for them to grow and thrive. That's where our faith and God steps in. Each night when I pray for my kids, grandkids, and great grandkids I ask God to keep them safe from harm, danger, illness, and accidents. I know that I can't keep them from experiencing some of these things, but I believe God can and will if it's possible. Faith is the foundation on which we stand and we must cling to the solid rock that is Jesus. As the song says "On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand." Happy New Year friends and May God shine His Holy Light on you this New Year and beyond.

Blessings my friends, Judy



United  
Women  
in Faith

Thank you to all who donated time, items, and sales to the success of the UWF bazaar.

The baked goods table and the craft table really looked good ...before we opened the doors Saturday morning. People enjoyed the cinnamon rolls and coffee. There were four kinds of soup served from the soup station. By about 11:45, we were sold out of all the soup. The leftovers from the treasure room were donated to Love, Inc. in Hamilton. We met our budget goal. Thanks!

Look for the United Women in Faith presentation of recognition pins in January.

*United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

Thank you for giving to our **CHRISTMAS PACKAGES** and **FOOD Donation**.

Our church family provided eight (8) families gifts and food for the Christmas Holiday.



# AD BOARD REPORTS

December 19, 2024

## Scouting- Joan Rininger

Troop 91/191 continues to hold their weekly meetings in the scout room area. The Scout Troop Committee meets at the church the first Sunday of the month to discuss, organize, and plan for the continued growth and activities of the troop. With the new scouts has come a great group of new parents that are eager to serve on committees and chaperone outings!!

The troop continues to work on fund raising projects to help each scout planning on attending the trip to Switzerland in the summer of 2025. They are making and selling homemade pasties. Orders can be given to Joan Rininger from now until January 5 and delivery will be on January 26. They would also like to have a spaghetti dinner held here on Monday, February 10.

## Membership-Joan Ringer and Judy Jennings

The AUMC will end the year 2024 with 168 members and 54 constituents.

## SPRC-Kevin DeLaet

For the AD Board - meeting held, minutes kept

## UWF- Cindy Thiele

\*The UWF bazaar made its budget goal. Thanks to a great team of women.

\*The Monday evening women's Bible study class continues with about 12-13 women each session.

\*In January we will be presenting three recognition pins during worship.

## Missions-Chris Jurkas

JANUARY 2025 MISSIONS PROJECT OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:

### 10 HOMES

10 Homes is part of Love, Inc in Hamilton. Their goal is to provide 10 mobile homes over 5 years to families who complete the transitional housing portion of their Homes of Hope Program. They want to purchase, place, refurbish and move the families into these homes making it possible for them to eventually take ownership of the homes.

One of the top issues in Allegan County community, like many communities across the nation, is the lack of safe, affordable housing.

They need our help to achieve their goals so families can possibly move into these homes.

Please support 10 Homes – your donations will be appreciated.

## Missions Update- Chris Jurkas

CHRISTMAS PACKAGES and FOOD

Our church provided eight (8) families gifts and food for the Christmas Holiday.

## Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

**Financial:** The pantry currently has \$11,160.54 in the account.

Received \$5,000 from the Mignon Sherwood Delano Foundation (\$3,000 for food, \$2,000 for personal care items).

Received \$4,000 from Perrigo Company Foundation-all going towards supplies.

**Peanut Butter Drive:** Begins January 24<sup>th</sup> and concludes February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**January Donation Request:** Jams and Jelly

## Church and Parsonage Expenses-November

**Income \$11,671.77**

102	October POM (Conference Ministry Shares)	\$	190.00
165	Sept/Oct Ministry Shares	\$	50.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	661.24
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,778.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	638.20
602	Charter Communications	\$	289.15
602	Michigan Gas	\$	101.83
602	Consumers Energy	\$	540.38
602	Republic Services	\$	213.37
605	Larry Nelson (Lawn/Snow, work are Parsonage)	\$	200.00
704	Wilcox Newspapers	\$	200.00
705	CCLI (Worship copyright, Streaming, music perform)	\$	778.00
705	One Write (Finance forms)	\$	107.00
709	Printer Machine Maintenance (Konica Minolta)	\$	230.00
903	The Upper Room	\$	88.41
1000	2024 Ministry Share Contribution)	\$	6,572.00
7504	Greater Southwest District (2024 Ministry Shares)	\$	1,428.00
	WAGES	\$	8,186.08
	<b>TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>22,251.66</b>

### PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	41.62
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	117.98
603	Michigan Gas	\$	32.03
	<b>TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>191.63</b>
	<b>TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>22,443.29</b>



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 NOVEMBER we collected \$45.00.



**JANUARY 2025**

**MISSIONS PROJECT OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:**



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### Hands of Grace Food Pantry

Donations:

**November: Donations:** 5 jelly, 7 misc. protein, 4 pickles, 1 taco shell, 1 rice, 5 veggies, 1 cereal, 18 boxes mac & cheese **Village Market:** 57 sweets, 141 buns, bagels, rolls, 48 bread; **December: Donations:** 24 spaghetti/pasta sauce, 1 mayo, 6 soup, 3 bags crackers, 1 Turkey dinner in a bag, 1 graham crackers, 1 chicken stock, 1 box of Nutri-grain bars, 2 baked beans, 2 chili & chili sauce, 1 honey mustard, 1 birthday bag; **Village Market:** 48 bread, 17 pies, 50 buns, rolls & bagels, 101 sweets, 20 taco wraps/shells, 3 holiday bags, 1 soup, 2 crackers, 2 stuffing; **12 Blessing bags from Burnips Methodist**

**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 and PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE in Pullman**

**MONTHLY – HUNGRY FOR CHRIST IN HAMILTON**



**Hands of Grace Food Pantry  
January Donation Request:**

**Jams/Jelly**



**Peanut Butter Drive:**

**Begins January 24<sup>th</sup> and concludes February 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**Donations can be dropped off in church Fellowship Hall.**



## **Courageous Conversations Event – 2<sup>nd</sup> Opportunity!**

If you missed your chance to attend November's Courageous Conversations event, or if you'd like to participate in it again, here's your chance!

- Next event will be held on **January 11<sup>th</sup>, 12noon-3pm**, with food/refreshments provided.
- Sign-up sheet can be found in the Fellowship Hall. While it is not required to attend, it greatly helps organizers plan for the event!
- This event is not open to the general public – only to members, constituents, and/or regular attendees of Allegan UMC.

**What is Courageous Conversations?** It's an intentional, guided, discussion-based event, 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, and give everyone equal space to talk, about things they may disagree about. This process seeks to build compassion and trust in a church family, despite differences of opinion. You get a chance to share your experiences and perspective, while learning about others as well.

**What ISN'T Courageous Conversations?** It 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.

### **Why are we doing this?**

At the 2024 General Conference, discriminatory language was removed from the United Methodist Book of Discipline that *previously* forbid the ordination of LGBT+ 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 you want Allegan UMC to 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, *we must first learn how to talk with one another on this subject.*

**Please join us for this event!**

# JANUARY

## WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	1/5	1/12	1/19	1/26
Pianist	Ellen Bierlein	Sari Hammon	Patty Anderson	Lisa Campeau
Liturgist	Patricia Huth	Lisa Campeau	Scott Dangremond	Daryl Waggoner
Ushers	Joan Rininger Linda Flynn	Tim Borgman Tita Balgoyen	Daryl Waggoner Lori Austin	
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Bells
Camera	DeLaet	DeLaet	Sarah Austin	DeLaet
Sound Tech	Jon Brink	John DeLaet	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman
Media	Samantha McPharlin	Amanda Blom	Samantha McPharlin	Amanda Blom



✪ **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](mailto:woodamanda211@gmail.com)

**Food Pantry:** Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.  
Contact Chris Jurkas : [cjurkas@chartermi.net](mailto:cjurkas@chartermi.net)

**Liturgist:** Sunday Mornings  
Contact Patty Anderson: [panderson@alleganps.org](mailto:panderson@alleganps.org)

**Ushers:** Sunday Mornings  
Contact Lori Austin: [secretary@allumc.org](mailto:secretary@allumc.org)

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesday nights at 7pm  
Directed by Daryl Waggoner: [daryl.waggoner@icloud.com](mailto:daryl.waggoner@icloud.com)

**Chancel Bells:** Sunday mornings at 10:30am  
Directed by Ireland Armintrout:  
[irelandarmintrout@hotmail.com](mailto:irelandarmintrout@hotmail.com)



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



Once again our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Cindy Thiele. She is a mover and a shaker as she sees something that needs to be done at the church and does it! A room that is in disarray she cleans it; a mess that needs cleaning up she does it; she is the driving force behind the bazaar; and she did an amazing job cleaning the church while our custodian was off. Cindy, a blessing in our midst, be sure to thank her when you see her



### FUNDRAISER

Troop 91/191 is having a fundraiser by selling homemade pasties!!! The project runs from now through January 5<sup>th</sup>.

You can order the vegetarian or beef pastry by contacting Joan Rininger (673-4160). Payment is DUE AT TIME OF ORDERING.

If paying with check: Boy Scout Troop 91/191

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**



Dinner with Sinners (that means us ☺) is a fellowship opportunity that will meet monthly. We dine together and share our life thoughts and experiences which will be prompted by pre-made questions.

**Thursday January 9th at 6:00pm.**

**The Grill House 1071 32<sup>nd</sup> St, Allegan, MI.**

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.



Coffee & Fellowship time is offered the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

**Please see the sign up sheet if you'd like to host a month**



**\*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.



**Getting To Know You**



**Sarah Circle, 1:00 pm January 16th in Fellowship Hall.** If you have ever thought about being part of Sarah Circle we welcome you to come to our monthly meetings. We open with a short devotional, have our business meeting, enjoy hearing from one of our members as she shares with us something that has touched her life, do a round table of sharing of joys and concerns, and have refreshments. This circle has

been in existence for over 50 years and we are the last circle still meeting and serving our church in various ways. We have adopted, as our mission, the Wings Home and supply them with gift cards to purchase items to make those who visit their loved ones comfortable. Questions, call Judy Jennings at 673-4989 or talk to any circle member.



Sunday School for all ages. Sunday's at 10:45am September-May.

Adults meet in Fellowship Hall and Youth are downstairs.

All are welcomed.





Come and sing with us!

Choir is for ages Junior High and up.

We meet for practice every Wednesday at 7:00pm in the Choir room which is located off the Fellowship Hall.

The choir sings in worship the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month and on certain Holidays. We'd LOVE to have you sing and worship our Savior through song.

Director Daryl Waggoner: 616-238-7955



Another great way to meet new people is through our Hand Bell Choir.

The Bell Choir is for ages Junior High and up.

We play in worship every 4th Sunday of the month and on certain holidays.

We'd LOVE to have you join us.

Please contact Director Ireland Armintrout: 269-941-3114.



Food Pantry is a FUN way to get connected not only with our church family but also with your community.

Helpers are on a rotation of days and you can CHOOSE the days you want to serve.

Tuesday 9am-11:45am, Wednesday 9am-11:45am & 5-7pm, Friday 10-11:45am.

Please let Chris Jurkas know how you'd like to serve.

Way's to serve: week day food distribution to families, van driver on Friday mornings to pick-up bulk food, and Friday morning helper with putting bulk foods into smaller proportions.



February 9, 2025

More information to come



### 2025 ALLEGAN UMC FAMILY CAMP

2025 Family Camp will again be held at Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat near Pentwater. The dates are Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> thru Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

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.

# Thanks for the Memories 2024

**Souper Bowl**



**After Worship Fellowship Coffee**



**Lenten Meal with Devotional**



**CPR Training**



**Garage Sale**



**Mental Health Advocacy**



**Keeping Healthy**



**Welcome to the Family**



**Holy Humor Sunday**



**Graduate Sunday**



**Dancing with the "Steers" ACF Parade**







Friendship Sunday



Skilled Roofers



Halloween Trick and Treats



CRAZY FESTIVE SWEATER SUNDAY



Caroling at Art Hop

