

Allegan United Methodist Church - February 2025



HEALTH CONCERNS:

John Goodrich, Justine Mitchell, 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.

SYMPATHY:

Prayers go out to Lester Tooman family in the passing of son Eric.

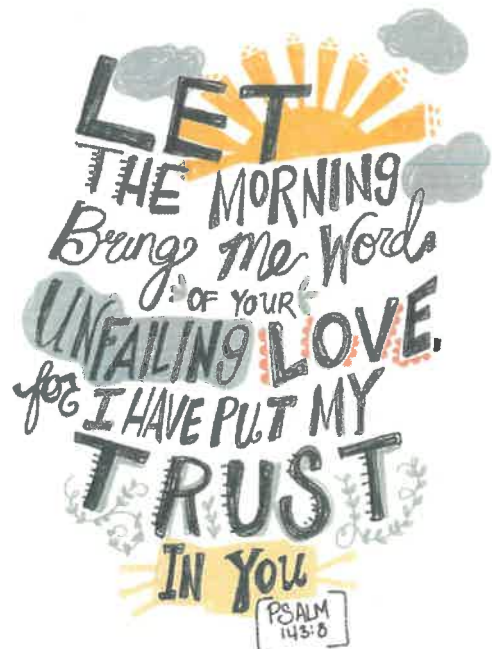
Prayers go out to the Masek family in the passing of Joy Masek.

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.



- 3-Xander Ruiz
Angel Ruiz
- 6-Tina Thiel
- 8-Scott Dangremond
- 11-Amanda Blom
- 12-Lee Heckman
- 16-Alli Dangremond
- 18-Jon Blackburn
- 20-Doris Fuller
- 22-Nathan Giles
Sue Thiel
- 23-Joshua DeBruyne
Barb Sanborn
- 27-John Watson

- 28- Sheryl Parrish
Samantha Meir
- 29- Sam Armintrout



Our church family suffered a great loss in the recent death of Joy Masek. She was such a blessing to our church as she was that soft, kind presence that made one always feel special in her sight. She lived her life with the Bible being her guide book and she could answer any Biblical question and tell you where to find the answer in the Bible. Our Bible Study group recently said "we need Joy" as we were pondering a Biblical question. As a Sunday school teacher, for many years, she took the hand of many of our children and led them to a life of believing in the stories and promises of Jesus and the Bible. She was a very devoted Kids Hope USA mentor and the children she mentored were blessed. Working at the Allegan Public library she came in contact with many people and always took the time to help them find what they were looking for. Later she became our church librarian and displayed books in Fellowship Hall for us to see and take out. Our bazaar was blessed with her pies, rolls, and many other yummy items. She was a member of our Prayer Chain and kept meticulous records of the requests she received and often, months later, would ask how the person being prayed for was doing. She was the joy of Jerry's life for 68 years and the devoted mom to their three girls, who grew up in our church. Joy enjoyed her relationship with her grandchildren and great grandchildren as I am sure she prayed for them daily. Joy will surely be missed as life without Joy is like a donut; it leaves a hole in the middle of our hearts. Now we will be there for Jerry and comfort him in any way he needs, as they were always together.

Blessings my friends, Judy



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith recognition pins were presented during worship on Sunday to the following people for their service.

Amy Brink - You see Amy's hands fly from two bells to four bells, to eight bells in the Bell Choir. Check with her, I believe she has been a member of the bell choir from its beginning. You may not

know Amy was Sunday school superintendent some years ago, as well as Vacation Bible School coordinator. Amy has been involved with Pentwater family Camp. Last, we want to point out, Amy has been the girl Scout leader for troop 80500 that met in our church for 12 years.

Kevin DeLaet- If we needed a delicious meal prepared for a crowd, Kevin is the man to call. He has helped the church raise funds multiple times through preparing spaghetti and lasagna dinners for hundreds. He has worked on our Fair Pade floats, rode, and walked in the parade. Kevin is a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts. Turning to church business, He continues to chair the Human Resources known to you as SPRC --Staff Parish Relations Committee. Not a fun job. There are weekly concerns and complaints, personal evaluations, policies, and salary decisions among other responsibilities. Kevin is an asset to our Administrative Board.

Lori Austin - Lori was hired about 3 years ago as church secretary. With a cheery smile Lori is our go-to-gal for anything church related. She attended all sorts of church committee meetings to listen and learn. She is the listening ear for members who come to chat and express their concerns. Lori is part of the chancel choir and the women's Monday bible study. She hosts many coffee/fellowship hours after worship. Lori's weekly emails of all the church activities are informative and a joy to read. She promotes us to serve, give, pray, and to give thanks.

Congratulations Amy, Kevin, and Lori.

Library Corner by Sari Hammon



If you need a book to get you through some cold winter days you might want to check out the church library where there have been some new books given to our library. The new books are displayed on the highlighted "New Books" bookshelf.

One book I enjoyed recently was 30 Days with E. Stanley Jones, written by John. E. Harnish in 2022. He has written short reflections about Jones (1884-1973), a Methodist missionary who focused on Social Justice in the world. The reflections show that many of Jones' ideas are very relevant in today's world also.



THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!!

> Troop 91/191 used the kitchen facilities

> To prepare the pasties for their fund raiser. A huge appreciation for how well they worked and what a fantastic job on cleaning! The kitchen was immaculate, floor was swept and mopped, the hall was vacuumed, and they even mopped the slate at the entrance!

>

> Well done scouts and congratulations on your successful fund raiser!



UMCOR Buckets (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

In our Greater Southwest District of the Michigan United Methodist Church, we churches have been organized into 7 Branches. Ours is Branch #2, which consists of: Allegan UMC, Bradley Indian Mission, Burnips UMC, Dorr: Crosswind Community, Hopkins UMC, Martin UMC, Monterey Center UMC, Shelbyville UMC, and Wayland UMC.

For 2025, District Superintendent Dean Prentiss assigned each Branch a month, along with the challenge to do something special together as a branch during our assigned month. Branch #2 was assigned February, and after some discussion amongst the pastors we've decided to join in assembling and donating **UMCOR Cleaning Kit Buckets for Disaster Relief**.

These buckets are filled with specific items to help UMCOR Volunteers and Aides working on the ground in disaster relief situations. Whether it's cleaning spaces ravaged by hurricanes, floods, or fires, these buckets are filled with the type of items that volunteers can never have enough of!

How Can I help?

Well, we already have the empty buckets, but there are multiple ways you can give towards filling them:

- In the style of our Christmas Baskets, or an Angel Tree, you can pick up one or more "tags" at the church – each tag is assigned to an item needed to fill a bucket. Then the next time you're at the store you'll know exactly what type and amount of items to pick up and bring back to the church.
- For \$75 you can Sponsor a Bucket! Make checks payable to Allegan UMC, with "UMCOR Buckets" in the memo line. Then the items to fill a bucket will be purchased on your behalf!
- You can donate any cash amount to cover additional items and shipping costs (\$3 per bucket), with checks payable to Allegan UMC, "UMCOR Buckets"
- **Can't give? Help Assemble! We will be gathering with other Branch 2 churches on February 23rd, 1:30pm at Hopkins UMC in Hopkins, MI to assemble our Buckets and join in fellowship!**

****All Donations are due to the church by Friday, February 21st**



UPDATE



Have you thought of a church family member recently or know that there is something happening in their life and would like to send them a greeting but aren't certain of their address.

- Even though we live in a high TECH world it's nice to receive something GOOD in your mailbox. You know that box that sits proudly out front of your home collecting UNWANTED junk. Well we'd like to help you out with this problem.

We are currently updating our church directory. Please see the form in this newsletter and fill it out and return to the church office by February 28th. If we don't hear back from you, then your information, (if we currently have on file) will not be put in the directory. Thank you for your help with this updating.

AD BOARD REPORTS

January 16, 2025

Scouting- Joan Rininger

Winter activities continue. Pasty fund raiser will be completed Saturday, January 18, when the scouts and parents spend the day in the church kitchen making the pasties and will arrange for the deliveries on January 26. Plan on a dinner out for Tuesday, January 21!! Once again the troop is doing the fund raiser at the Allegan Pizza Hut. The troop will receive all tips and a percentage of all sales – including deliveries. The next Court Of Honor is on Sunday, January 26, from 4:00-6:00pm and is being held in the high school conference room.

Membership-Joan Ringer and Judy Jennings

AUMC has a membership of 167 (death of Joy Masek) and 54 constituents.

UWF- Cindy Thiele

United Women in Faith ---nothing new to report

Missions- Chris Jurkas

MISSIONS PROJECT OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST

CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC FIRE UMCOR Disaster Response & Recovery United States

Food Pantry-Chris Jurak and Rod Rambadt

Financial: The pantry currently has \$10,227.06 in the account.

Grants: A grant has been submitted to Allegan County Community Foundation for \$3,000.

February Donation Request: **Cereal**

MISSIONS PROJECT OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION



CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC FIRE

***UMCOR Disaster Response
& Recovery - United States***

Altadena United Methodist Church in Altadena, California, is reduced to rubble after the Palisades and Eaton fires swept through southern California. Experts warn that Los Angeles is not yet out of danger as the fires remain uncontained.



United Methodists in southern California are opening their doors and doing what they can to help people displaced by the wildfires. They are asking for financial donations to help anyone that lost their home.

The California flames have consumed thousands of structures across more than 50 square miles. Roughly 400,000 California customers have experienced power outages, and more than 180,000 people have needed to evacuate. At least 10 people have died.

Altadena United Methodist Church sign still stands





CHRISTMAS PACKAGES and FOOD

Again, thank you to everyone that helped with the whole process.

We could not have succeeded without you!

And especially to: Pastor Julia, Elizabeth Closson, Lisa Campeau, Barb Sanborn and Grace Switzer

Christmas Food Baskets



Hands of Grace Food Pantry

Donations:

December: Donations: 5 spaghetti, 3 pancake mix, 2 syrup, 8 pasta sauce, 1 jelly, 4 soup from scratch, 1 salsa, 1 black beans & corn, 1 corn, relish, 1 honey, 1 parmesan cheese, 1 pork steak & chops seasoning, 2 muffin mixes, 8 cocoa mixes, 1 bag Tostitos, 2 seasoning containers, 20 packets taco sauce, 3 4lb sugar; **Village Market:** 109 sweets, 57 bread, 70 buns & rolls, 7 cocktail Juice, 7 Kool Aid, 5 croutons, 5 cocktail sauce, 107 dressing, 7 Oreo cookies, 7 lasagna noodles, 22 boxes of 8 pork patties. **January: Donations:** 5 shampoo, 2 hair conditioner, 1 face/body cream, 1 hand sanitizer, 40 jelly, 11 boxes of Jello, 6 boxes/pkgs pudding, 2 bread crumbs, 1 bag oyster crackers, 1 bag rice, 1 bag puffed corn, 3 dental floss, 1 can cherries, 1 can oranges, 1 box spaghetti, 1 Worcestershire sauce, 2 birthday bags, 1 cake mix, 1 snack nuts, 20 peanut butter, 1 dried fruit & nut mix, 1 dried plums, 1 bag kidney beans, 7 bags great northern beans, 4 bags of rice, 8 bags yellow and green peas, 4 bags lentils, 6 apple sauce, 7 cans salmon, 2 can/bottle water, 18 mac & cheese, 2 cans vegetables, 4 extra-large peanut butter, ; **Village Market:** 74 bread, 99 buns & rolls, 98 sweets, 10 holiday bags

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

The peanut butter drive began January 24th and will end February 28th. The drop sites we have authorized are:

Village Market – Class Act – Family Dollar and Grocery Outlet Store

The full list of drop off sites is under the Allegan County Community Foundation –

[PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE - Allegan County Community Foundation](#)

HANDS OF GRACE FOOD PANTRY

February Donation Request: Cereal



Financial Corner – February 2025



The Finance team would like to share information regarding the 2024-year end and the 2025 Budget.

Year End 2024:

This year was a very busy year for us at the AUMC. We did a really good job of handling all of the challenges that were put before us. Roof leaking many times in January and February in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Garage Sale fundraiser in the spring was both challenging and rewarding and everyone seemed to have a good time. The following morning a breakfast was put on by the DeLaet family that was great in both food and fellowship. In the Fall a new roof was put on the Sanctuary. We then had a very successful Lasagna Dinner and Auction Fundraiser. All in all a good year. **We did not have to use any money from the Mutual Fund** for the General Fund even though it was voted by the Ad Board to use up to \$10,000 if needed. Due to everyone in the Church watching spend we were almost \$6,500 underspent to the budget.

December 2024 Year End Balances:

General Fund = \$16,590 - up almost \$6,500 from 2024

Trustee Fund = \$35,374 - up almost \$10,000 from 2024, new roof installed and we borrowed \$20,000 from the Mutual Fund that we will pay back over time as we finish fixing the Sanctuary.

Food Pantry = \$10,786 - up almost \$2,000 from 2024

Memorial Fund = \$8,749 - up almost \$800 from 2024

Mutual Fund = \$105,582 - down almost \$8,000 from 2024. However, \$20,000 was used for the Roof and will be paid back to this fund over time.

2025 Budget:

The finance team has worked very hard to create a Budget for 2025 that is as close to a balanced budget that we have had in a few years.

Cost Reductions for 2025

Several people in conjunction with the Finance Team have reviewed costs in many areas for the church. The Following are successes that were found:

Garbage Service – it was discovered that we were being charged monthly rather than quarterly by Republic. We have been credited with almost \$1,500 for 2025. Then we are also checking with other companies about the costs.

Telephone – we have looked into this, we have made progress here – cost reductions are coming in 2025 and possibly a different provider.

Office and Janitorial Supplies – people have looked into these items, we are making a change in office supplier from our old supplier to Staples for almost a 40% savings in paper and products. Janitorial supplies – Inventory sheets have been developed and supplies being purchased at reduced costs.

Weather – as we all can see, we are looking at possibly a normal winter for Michigan right now. Costs for snow removal and salt are being tracked, but we are more concerned for our congregation's safety and wellbeing – so we will spend what we need to ensure everyone's safety.

2025 Total Budget Request -	\$216,837
2025 Ministry Shares request -	\$18,847
2025 Need to run Church -	\$197,190
2025 Commitment Cards -	\$180,994
2025 Conference Grant -	\$5,000
2025 Plate Offering and Building Use -	\$4,500
2025 Balance in G/F (Retained Earn\$9,500) -	\$7,070
2025 Budgeted Spend -	\$197,564

The chart above shows us that we have income planned of \$197,564 vs a need of \$197,190. This also means that there is no money at this point to pay any of the requested Ministry Shares of \$18,847.

So here is our plan to generate money to pay a percentage of the Ministry Shares for 2025:

- 1) Ag/Bake Table – (June – September) - All proceeds to be put to Ministry Shares
- 2) Change Jar – All proceeds to be put towards Ministry Shares
- 3) 1 POM – All proceeds to be put towards Ministry Shares
- 4) Half Way through 2025 – determine Fundraiser Dinner event – proceeds to go to Food Pantry, Trustees or Ministry Shares.

The Finance team has worked very hard to come up with this plan for 2025. If you ever have any ideas or thought for us to consider please let any of the members know.

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

Go Make Disciples.

Matthew 28: 18-20

Church and Parsonage Expenses-DECEMBER

Income \$18,008.75

108	Chris Jurkas (reimbursement Christmas Basket)	\$	75.00
165	Nov/Dec. 8 th Ministry Shares	\$	398.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	661.24
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,778.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	365.71
602	Charter Communications	\$	289.15
602	Michigan Gas	\$	290.00
602	Consumers Energy	\$	716.53
602	Republic Services	\$	212.68
605	Larry Nelson (Lawn/Snow)	\$	148.75
606	Staples(Bathroom supplies)	\$	189.95
702	Staples(office copy paper and yearly desk calendar)	\$	61.08
709	Printer Machine Maintenance (Konica Minolta)	\$	230.00
807	JW Pepper (Choir Music)	\$	49.00
807	Hope Publishing (Choir Music)	\$	138.10
807	Peck Music (Choir Music)	\$	62.95
903	The Upper Room	\$	83.40
903	Julia Humenik (Reimburse Remembrance Poinsettias)	\$	79.90
	WAGES	\$	8,506.86
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR DECEMBER	\$	14,336.30

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	80.00
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	117.98
603	Michigan Gas	\$	98.21
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR DECEMBER	\$	296.19
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$	14,632.49



Last years "Change Jar" donations went toward our Church Trustees budget to help with the upkeep of our Sanctuary and property.

For the month of DECEMBER we collected \$62.00.



This years **2025 "Change Jar"** donations will go toward
"MINISTRY SHARES"

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

Thank you.

February

WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	2/2	2/9	2/16	2/23
Pianist	Ellen Bierlein	Patty Anderson	Sari Hammon	Lisa Campeau
Liturgist	Tim Dickinson	Bonnie West	Ellen Bierlein	Patricia Huth
Ushers	Joan Rininger Linda Flynn	Barb Sanborn Chris Thomas	Chris Jurkas Chris Thomas	Daryl Waggoner Lori Austin
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Bells
Camera	Sarah Austin	DeLaet	DeLaet	Sarah Austin
Sound Tech	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink
Media	Samantha McPharlin	DeLaet	Amanda Blom	Samantha McPharlin



✠ **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



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



This month our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Rod Rambadt. Rod has headed the Administrative Board, was a Kids Hope USA mentor, continues to be on the Hands of Grace Food Pantry board, and is a go-to guy for many things. He is Karen's right hand man as he assists her in her many craft setups and takedowns and is a loving caregiver to her when needed. Rod has not been around for a while due to some health issues he has had, he is a blessing in our midst so be sure to thank him when you see him



SOUPER BOWL

GAME-WATCHING Party

FUN TIMES!

FEBRUARY 9TH
5:30 P.M. TO END OF GAME
SOUP/CHILI COOK-OFF
BOARD GAMES, FUN AND TOGETHERNESS!



SCOUT TROOP 91/191
Spaghetti Fundraiser
Monday February 10th in the church Fellowship Hall.
More information to come through bulletin inserts and emails.

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.

Thursday, February 20th at 6:00pm.

The Grill House 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 1st Sunday of each month.

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

Basic hosting duties:

Have coffee or beverage of your choice and refreshment of your choice ready for church family to enjoy after Sunday worship at 10:30am.

If you have any further questions please feel free to call the church office or ask Lori Austin.



***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.



2025 ALLEGAN UMC FAMILY CAMP

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

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.