

Allegan United Methodist Church – April 2025



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Piper Sewell, Joyce Brink, Justine, Mitchell, Willard Jennings, Emberly DeBruyne, Jim Elmore, Karen Rouse, June Fullerton, Trevah Dalrymple, Shari Bradley, Tim Closson, and Ed Garvin.

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

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

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR THOSE BATTLING CANCER OR HAVING TREATMENT:

Cheryl Merrit, Hanford Brink, Juanita Ellis, Ben Wood, Kim Emmons, Christina Thompson, Terry Brink, and those known but unnamed.

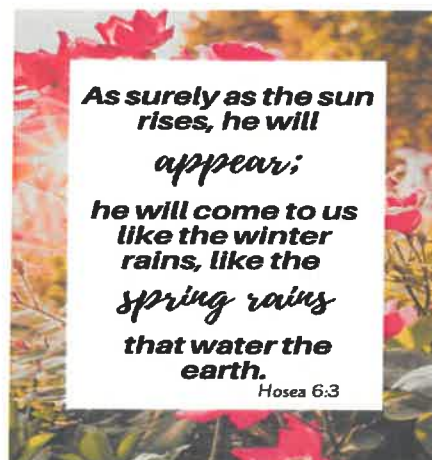
If you have any joys or concerns you would like announced on the live stream Sunday Service, please contact the church office(phone/email) no later than 11:30 a.m. Thursdays.



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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11 - Michelle Adams | 27 - Shelby VanOrder |
| Aleeka DeBruyne | 30 - Matt Thiel |
| 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 | |



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





Dear AUMC Family,

As many of you are aware, on May 1, 2024, the worldwide United Methodist Church, the General Conference, voted to remove restrictive language from the Book of Discipline concerning marriage and ordination of gay persons. Churches, by way of the Administrative Board, are free to determine if they will allow same-gender weddings in their building. Churches are also, by way of their SPRC/Administrative Board, free to determine if they are comfortable with the Bishop and Cabinet appointing a gay pastor to serve in their congregation.

Over the last several months, our church held two Courageous Conversation events, in which folks talked and listened about different perspectives regarding homosexuality and the church. I'm so grateful for those who lent their time, attention, and perspectives to those conversations. **Which now brings us to our next steps...**

Myself and the Ad Board are requesting your input on these subjects that relate to the ministry of Allegan UMC. As such, we are asking for your participation in a survey, so that we might understand the perspectives of the congregation as a whole.

On April 1st, 2025, you will receive an email with an internet link, leading you to the online survey. If you are unable to receive or access email, there will be hard copies of the survey available at the church, to be turned into the office or my mailbox. **All survey responses must be completed by May 1, 2025.**

Your responses will be sent directly to me alone, and I will share the results and comments with the Ad Board. Names are required to ensure one submission per active congregant or member of AUMC. I **will not** share your name with the Ad Board, or any other parties. All active members and/or attendees of AUMC are encouraged to participate in this survey via online or hard copy turned into the church office.

Please note that this is a survey, not a vote. The Administrative Board will receive the information gathered through this survey and use it to inform and guide their discussions and any decision-making they may wish to do in ministry at AUMC.

I thank you for your thoughtful participation in this work!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Julia

Sometimes these articles are hard to do as I always try to wait for God's leading and He may have trouble getting through to me. I actually wrote an article the other day but it disappeared off of my iPad, do you think that was God saying to me 'that's not what I want you to write' or my technical disability? Oh well, here we go again.

During the Lenten season some folks give up something for the 40 days Jesus was in the desert. Some give up a favorite food, snack, drink or activity. Sometimes people give up things like negativity, judgment, and work hard to remove those thoughts from their mind. Yet others decide to give something or do something that brings them closer to God for thinking of others opens them up to new possibilities or opportunities. I, on occasion, have written 40 notes during Lent and sent them to various people. I have had many people comment on these notes as they enjoyed receiving them. This year I have decided to cut back on screen time as I know that sometimes I can get lost in it. Whatever we give up is such a small sacrifice when it comes to what Jesus gave up, for us, on the cross. He must have felt the heavy burden He was carrying, He must have wanted to do more work on earth, He must have known how His life would end and yet He did it for us! The dark days before the crucifixion were looming and in that Upper Room He knew one would betray Him, how painful that must have been. He went into the garden of Gethsemane seeking strength and God's will even though He was deeply distressed. He asked that the cup of suffering might be taken from Him but alas, He also said not My will but thine. And so He was crucified, died and was buried, only to rise again on the third day. That's the joy of Easter as every morning is Easter from now on!

Happy Easter my friends, Judy



The Otsego UMW-United Women in Faith invite the ladies of our church and community to their annual Lenten Breakfast, Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 9:30am. Seating for this breakfast is limited; please make your reservation by Monday April 14. They will be serving breakfast casserole, with a variety of flavors including gluten free, vegetarian and a variety of fruit and breads.

MEMORIAL WHAT?



Do you know the story about the church's Memorial Fund? How about the Memorial Book?

Well, several years ago a group started the Memorial Fund, and it became a way to celebrate the memory of a loved one by giving a gift to the church. In a few years someone suggested a Memorial Book which had pages for the person's name. As the years flew by the number of pages became so many that it now takes over two and a half years to go through all the pages one time (the page is turned once a week). The book is in a stand in the Fellowship Hall.

At the Administrative Board meeting last month, it was decided to archive the Memorial Book to the records room and place the antique Bible, which at one time was on the sanctuary communion table, in the Fellowship Hall stand so that people can enjoy it. This will be done by May 1, 2005. Exciting!!

Being able to give a gift to the Memorial Fund is **not changing**. It, as well as many other opportunities throughout the year, is still a wonderful way to honor someone while giving a gift to the church.

Be sure to look for the antique Bible in the stand!!

AD BOARD REPORTS

March 20, 2025

Scouting- Joan Rininger

Troop 91/191 membership continues to grow following another Crossover from Pack 3033 of Hamilton. Several scouts are nearing Rank advancements and others continue to work on various merit badges.

The fundraisers are doing well – the last Pizza Hut was over \$100 in tips and percentage of sales and the bottle/can drives continue to add funds to the scouts' accounts. The next bottle/can drive is scheduled for April 5 and will be held at C-COM (corner of Monroe Road and M-40). The Car/Craft show planned for May has 40 craft booths lined up and several car clubs are registered.

Troop 91 had a backpacking campout March 14-16. Troop 191's scheduled campout to Chief Little Turtle in Indiana was cancelled due to severe weather conditions. Instead the troop had a weekend of swimming, and other events in the local area. Road Side Pick-up is scheduled for April 27.

Due to problems/demonstrations that have been occurring in Ontario over the new U.S restrictions there is concern about Troop 91/191 attending this year's Dorchester International Brotherhood Camporee, May 9-11. The Scout Committee decided to survey the parents about their preference of sending or not sending their scout to Dorchester this year. After reviewing the survey the Committee and Scout Masters will decide if the trip should be cancelled.

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

AUMC has 166 members and 54 constituents as of March 17, 2025.

SPRC-Kevin DeLaet

Meeting held, minutes kept.

UWF- Cindy Thiele

--We have been asked to host the Greater Southwest District UWF spring event March 29th Saturday.

This will be an all-day event (about 8:30 - 2:30pm) with morning refreshments and lunch. The theme will be Soul Care. I hope to have the bell choir be the entertainment.

--Four Lenten meals have been planned. UWFaith will be hosting March 19th with a potato bar.

--I am going to annual conference as an equalization member.

--Received the invoice for renewing certification for kitchen, \$355.00.

Missions-Chris Jurkas

April Project of the Month is: Ministry Shares

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: The pantry currently has \$9,091.69 in the account.

Grants: The Grants Coordinator will be working on the Great Lakes Energy grant soon-due in April.

Donation Request: Pork & Beans

Worship – Pastor Julia Humenik

Holy Week is fast approaching and the schedule is as follows:

- Maundy Thursday (April 17th) - 5:00pm shared service at Hope Lutheran (Plainwell)

- Good Friday (April 18th)

3:00 p.m. - Immanuel Lutheran Allegan

7:00 p.m. - Allegan UMC

-Easter Sunday (April 20th)

7:00am Sunrise Service on church steps

9:30am traditional service

Additional worship: Holy Humor Sunday is April 27th

Nominations –

The nominations committee would like to recommend Judy Jennings to be added to SPRC, by approval of the Ad Board.

FINANCE April 2025

COMMITTEE 2025 has started out with a new President and he is shaking things up. The Stock Market showed a significant growth in late 2024. However, in 2025 with some decisions being made by the government the Stock Market has taken a significant downturn. Due to this the Finance team along with the approval of the Trustees we have made a decision to pay back to the Mutual Fund \$10,000 of the \$20,000 that we borrowed to help replace the roof over the Sanctuary. We hope that with this payment at this time will show beneficial gains in the future in our Mutual Fund holdings.

February 2025 Balances:

General Fund = \$19,826 - up almost \$3,000 from 2024 year end.

Trustee Fund = \$43,326 - up almost \$8,000 from 2024 year end.

Food Pantry = \$9,658 - down almost \$1,000 from 2024 year end

Memorial Fund = \$8,749 - same balance from 2024 year end,

Mutual Fund = \$108,734 - up almost \$3,000 from 2024 year end.

NOTE: \$10,000 was paid back from Trustees account to Mutual Fund in mid-March. This is \$10,000 of the \$20,000 borrowed in 2024 for Sanctuary roof replacement.

2025 Budget:

The 2025 budget through 2 months is about \$5,000 ahead of plan. This normal to see a positive early in the year as some people pay their pledge in full early in the year.

Cost Reductions for 2025

Cost reductions continue to be worked on. We are now working on a plan for the Printer in the office, we hope to find a solution that will satisfy all of our needs and save money at the same time.

Ministry Shares

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 either the Food Pantry, Trustees or Ministry Shares.

The Finance team has worked very hard to make good decisions and to use our funds to their fullest extent. If you ever have any ideas or thoughts 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

Church and Parsonage Expenses-February

Income \$20,710.24

102	January POM (10 HOMES)	\$	458.00
116	Julia Humenik (Reimburse UMCOR Bucket supplies)	\$	878.69
119	UWF	\$	125.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	681.21
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,955.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	56.23
602	Charter Communications	\$	288.59
602	Michigan Gas	\$	608.18
602	Consumers Energy	\$	1,013.88
605	Larry Nelson (Lawn/Snow)	\$	51.00
605	Seth Pettit (Snow Plow Parking Lot Feb.)	\$	90.00
605	Ivan Busfield (parking lot snow removal Jan.)	\$	315.00
606	Andy's ACE Hardware (Custodial)	\$	115.48
606	Staples (Custodial)	\$	44.16
709	Printer Machine Maintenance (Konica Minolta)	\$	230.00
807	Peck Music Publishing	\$	67.33
903	Upper Rooms	\$	83.40
903	Cokesbury (Altar candle wax)	\$	148.02
1006	Cokesbury (SS Study Books)	\$	196.11
	WAGES	\$	9,748.51
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR FEBRUARY	\$	17,153.79

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	131.02
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	123.00
603	Michigan Gas	\$	166.69
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR FEBRUARY	\$	420.71
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$	17,574.50



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 donation TOTAL: \$61.00



Aprils Communion Mission and 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

Food and Personal Item Donations:

February & March:

Village Market Donations: 371

All other donations: 354

Peanut Butter Total: 140

Grant Total: 865

Thank you.

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

APRIL donation request is:

PORK & BEANS



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	4/6	4/13 (Palm Sunday)	4/20 (Easter)	4/27 (Holy Humor)
Pianist	Lisa Campeau	Ellen Bierlein	Sari Hammon	Patty Anderson
Liturgist	Kathie Arney	Bill Austin	Tim Dickinson	Bonnie West
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Barb Sanborn Tita Balgoyen	Chris Thomas Tita Balgoyen	Daryl Waggoner Lori Austin
Music	Choir	Choir Bill and Sarah Austin	Choir	Bell Quartet
Camera	Sarah Austin	DeLaet	Sarah Austin	Sarah Austin
Sound Tech	Jon Brink	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink
Media	Amanda Blom	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!



Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Chris Jurkas. Chris is the heart and breath of our Hands of Grace Food Pantry as she spends many hours working on orders, doing paper work, picking up items needed, and fills in whenever needed if someone can't work their shift. She also is head of our Mission Committee and keeps the congregation updated on the needs locally and around the world. She is on the Administrative Board and keeps the board updated on the needs of the Food Pantry and the various missions we support. Chris, a blessing in our midst, be sure to thank her when you see her.



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 April 3rd at 6:00pm

The Grill House

We will be ordering off the menu at your own expense.



Please see the sign-up 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.



SCOUTS Can/Bottle Drive at C-COM on Saturday April 5th



CANDY NEEDED

Please leave donations in marked box in Fellowship Hall by Sunday April 6th.

Thank you from your Family Fellowship Committee 😊



Bring your children, grandchildren, and friends to the Egg Hunt on Sunday April 13th 1pm.

Meet on the front sanctuary steps.

Ages of hunt are 1yr-4 yrs, K5-3rd and 4th-5th grade.



Highway Trash Pick- up April 8th. Please meet in the church parking lot at 9:30am. If you have any questions contact Fred Banks.

LENTEN
Schedule

Holy Week 2025

Palm Sunday ~ 4/13

Maundy Thursday ~ 4/17
- 5:00pm service at Hope Lutheran, Plainwell

Good Friday ~ 4/18
- 3:00pm service at Immanuel Lutheran, Allegan
- 7:00pm service at Allegan UMC

Easter ~ 4/20
- 7:00am, Sunrise Service on front steps
- 9:30am, Traditional Service



Lenten Meals and Devotional Time
Fellowship Hall starting at 5:45pm-7pm
Wednesday April 2nd (Pizza and Salad)
April 9th (Tomato Soup & Grilled Cheese)



Holy Humor Sunday 27th.
Wear your FUNNIEST STYLE OF CLOTHING to Sunday worship, AND LET LAUGHTER AND JOY FILL YOUR HEARTS BECAUSE WE HAVE A SAVIOR WHO LIVES!



Do you have an upcoming High School Graduate in your family? We are looking for graduates in our church family to honor on **May 18th** with recognition during worship and fellowship reception after worship, and gift. Please give the church office a call with the name of those graduating and how many will be able to attend.



NEW BLINDS? WHAT?!

A committee has been looking into getting new blinds for the Fellowship Hall and the Music Room. They have two estimates and are getting one more for comparisons. Some have expressed helping financially with this project. If you feel so inclined marked your gift Window Coverings Fund and put in the offering plate or bring it to 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

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.



Alleghen UMC women are deep in conversation at their Monday Night Women's Bible Study. The Bible study meets on Monday's at 6:30pm in the FH.