

Allegan United Methodist Church – July 2025



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Piper Sewell, Joyce Brink, Justine Mitchell, Willard Jennings, Emberly DeBruyne, Jim Elmore, 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 Wroblewski.

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.



1-Clayton Blom
4-Vicki Sebright
9-Chris Thomas
10-Sally Adams
12-Tita Balgoyen
Kristen (Giles) Haas
13-Joan Rininger
Leah VanOrder
16-Kara Dangremond
22-Marleen Milhiem
Becky Rininger
23-Linda Flynn
25-Sara Ramaker

26-Audrey Brink
Jacob DeBruyne
Mark Brink
Nancy Brink
27-Doug Brink



5-Matt & Kristy Milbocker



Annual Conference 2025 – A Summary

(A more detailed summary can be found in print at the church or online at michiganumc.org)

As many of you know, Pastor Julia, Cundy Thiele, and Daryl Waggoner joined some 1,300 people for the 2025 session of Michigan Annual Conference at the end of May. Clergy and lay members, along with staff and guests, came to worship, discuss and vote on business, celebrate shared ministry, and serve through missional giving and activities. Guest speaker Rev. Dr. Jasmine Smothers challenged attendees to press on in ministry by blessing the past, wiping the slate clean, and writing new rules for ministry. Her teaching session was built around principles outlined in a book she co-wrote, *Blank Slate*. Bishop David Alan Bard named the various ways, individually and as a church, that we are called to engage in the unfinished work of growing in Christ and growing Christ into the world. “We trust that the power of the risen Christ is with us,” said the bishop. “We trust that God can take our small acts . . . of kindness, of caring, our individual and shared efforts for a more just world, the quiet work we do to dismantle systems and ideas that get in the way of beloved community. God can take these small acts and multiply them.



Some details, at a glance:

- 8 persons were ordained (6 elders, 2 deacons), 6 were commissioned to ministry (5 elders, 1 associate member), one elder was received into provisional membership, 2 elders in full connection were recognized or transferred, and 5 graduated from Course of Study.
- 24 Clergy were celebrated on their retirement
- Over 800 attendees voted to ratify several amendments to the United Methodist Constitution, by paper ballot. These amendments were approved by the 2020/2024 General Conference and passed on to all the annual conferences for ratification. The spirit of the four amendments aligned with major decisions made at the General Conference, which called for greater inclusion, reinforced the church’s commitment to anti-racism and building God’s beloved community, and took steps toward restructuring the denomination to promote greater equity among annual conferences worldwide. The Council of Bishops will announce the outcome of the vote in November 2025.
- 8 churches were presented for closure, and 14 additional churches have closed by disaffiliation.
- One new church start was celebrated: Novi: Korean Faith Community.
- An “aspirational budget” was presented for 2026, totaling \$8,032,538, which is a reduction of \$458,398 from 2025.
- Bishop David Bard shared the United Methodist Church’s apology statement to victims and survivors of sexual misconduct, first shared at the 2020/2024 General Conference.
- During the opening worship service, a \$42,115 offering was collected to benefit Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI) and the Bishop Judith Craig Children’s Village in Liberia
- Through the Rice Meal Packing event, close to 200 volunteers put together 7,222 rice meal packs. Each pack provides six meals, with 43,332 meals being sent worldwide.
- 6,705 pounds of gently used mobility aides and assembled kits were collected by Midwest Mission.

Two resolutions passed by a large margin, 7 approved by smaller margin, and one was referred:

- Two approved by large margin were: R#2025-8, “Mandatory Protection Policy and Ethics Training for Clergy,” and R#2025-5, “Haiti Gardens of Hope,” approved a year-long \$215,000 campaign which will strengthen the ministries of three Engage MI partners — Grace Children’s Hospital, Haitian Assets for Peace International (HAPI), and Jeremie Rising
- R#2025-6, “Generative Artificial Intelligence,” was referred to Bishop David Bard’s office, who will establish a Generative AI Working Group to examine and provide recommendations on the theological, ethical, and practical implications of Generative Artificial Intelligence.
- Three resolutions dealt with topics related to salaries and benefits
- Three resolutions related to the ongoing war between Israel and Palestine, a boycott of Chevron, and a boycott of tours visiting the Holy Land were debated and approved, with amendments. Each of these have action items for United Methodists to pursue, so congregations are urged to review final versions.
- One resolution, 2025-4, “Re-Prioritize Federal Spending from the Military to Human Security,” calls for Michigan United Methodists to advocate for federal spending on national defense and the military to be reduced to better support health care, education, housing, and climate change mitigation. Recommendations for action are outlined in the resolution.



July is the month when I do a lot of reminiscing of memories made at Pentwater Family Camp. After almost 50 years of camping we had to give it up for various reasons. Fred and Nancy Peabody brought the suggestion we try the campground, located near Pentwater on Lake Michigan, and owned by the United Methodist Church. We did a weekend camp and decided that we would do a full week camp and that camp still continues today. We have seen improvements like replacing the tire steps with wooden stairways, building a beautiful deck, and in recent years a new bathroom/shower house has been built. There were times when we had over 100 people

attending but now the numbers have dwindled down to just a few faithful families from our church who attend. Jack and Jan Denton still come, although they live in Eaton Rapids, and they have brought guests from their church to join us. Some of the highlights are; camp pie night, singing around the campfire, Vesper Services, walking the beach, sitting on the deck to watch the sunset, potluck meals, Bingo, and games for all ages. Memories of the ladies staying up late and sitting around the campfire; men playing cards and horseshoes; Hanford setting up his baseball game, little Allison sitting in her little bathtub; Leah turning her ankle; Shawn, I think, stepping on a nail; little Mark D. and his mom up early and studying ants in the road; Arlene hosting mock weddings/anniversaries, Steven Anderson declaring "I never get poison Ivy" rolling down the hill and his mom informing us he had poison ivy all over his body, 4th of July games, bike parades, and oh so, so much more. We went horseback riding and Jon's horse was as big as a Clydesdale and when he got off that horse he declared "I now know why John Wayne walked that way!" Memories are such a gift, even though they cause one to be melancholy at times, but where would we be without them? As we grow older our memories begin to fade but hopefully some of our most treasured memories remain to bring a smile and create a warm spot in our hearts.

Blessings my friends, Judy



United
Women
in Faith

If you were unable to attend, you missed a fragrant, informative tea at Hopkins UMC last Saturday.

Meg Voss gave a wonderful presentation on 'Oils of the Bible'. There was an information sheet to take notes on with along scripture verses to each

of the oils. She gave bible history, how it was made, and how the oils are used today. Samples were passed around. By the end of the program, oh the aromas in the room.

Mission u is coming in July at Mount Pleasant UMC. This is a Thursday, Friday, Saturday retreat. The study is "Practicing Hope" led by Shannon Priddy. We have scholarships available to anyone wanting to go. (Kids, grandkids, go free). This is the national study offered in every conference.

The Sleeping Mat loom is a mission project for the whole church sponsored by UWF. Spend some time weaving—potholder style—over- under- over.



Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and support through my transplant surgery and recovery.

I am doing well and look forward to being back with our church family.

-Joyce Brink



It is finally happening!! The biggest, most exciting event for Troop 91/191 is the international "scoutarama" in SWITZERLAND!! There are 25 people – 14 youth and 11 adults/leaders - who departed on June 27 and will return on July 8. THANK YOU for all your support of the fund



Thank You! raising events! The scouts and parents worked hard on fund raisers for two years to help support some of the individual families costs . Please keep them in your prayers while they make this exciting, adventuresome, memorable trip.



Dear Friends,

If you are traveling north in our area,(Gaylord) please stop and see us.

God Bless you all. - Terry and Donna Skogland

AD BOARD REPORTS

June 19, 2025

Scouting- Joan Rininger

BUSY and EXCITED are the two best words to describe Troop 91/191!

All scouts have had their swim checks. Some scouts are preparing for various summer camps. Two scouts are working on their Eagle Scout level, and one is ready for Life advancement. The Craft and Car show was a big success! The Troop financial balance is good thanks to donations and fund raising. Major issue currently is that one of the scout trailers needs some major and costly repairs. Some of the materials may be donated and qualified help is volunteering the labor.

The biggest, most exciting event is SWITZERLAND! There are 25 people going – 14 youth and 11 adults/leaders. The group departs on June 27 and returns on July 8. PLEASE keep them in your prayers while they make this exciting, adventuresome, memorable trip.

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

The AUMC numbers remain the same as last month – 165 members and 54 constituents.

UWF- Cindy Thiele

-I attended Annual Conference as an equalization member and had a good time.

I took 7 sets of crutches, 6 walkers, 2 canes for the Midwest Missions Truck.

--The loom for weaving sleeping mats comes from Hopkins UMC by way of Midwest Missions.

This is a UMF and church project. Everyone may spend time weaving at any time.

--July 17-19th is *Mission u* at Mt. Pleasant UMC. This is like a church camp for women (and their kids/grandkids.)

We have scholarships for anyone who would be interested in going. See the bulletin board for details.

Missions-Chris Jurkas

June's Missions - **LUTHERAN CHURCH BACKPACK PROGRAM**

July's Mission- **BARNABAS MINISTRIES**

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: The pantry currently has \$6,787.24 in the account.

Donation Request: Cereal **and Sugar**

Food Pantry Meeting: Kevin facilitated an awesome meeting with 17 of our volunteers on June 5th.

He not only kept us on track of the agenda but wrote great minutes. Our thanks go out to you.

1. In the meeting we discussed several subjects such as basement freezer, dry food and personal items. Also, we mentioned the items that may be available in kitchen/backroom.
2. The need for volunteers was discussed in detail, including drivers, kitchen help, intake, and distribution. Have a plan to keep sufficient amount and to fill any gaps.
3. More involved: Community service from the school? Community Service through jail? Ask if clients wish to volunteer? These ideas are being pursued.
4. We agreed to keep the kitchen counter clear as much as possible.
5. List of food items to each customer-so they select which items they want. They could fill out the list while waiting for their turn.
6. Dogs should not come in with owner. Ask if the animal be kept in the car. This is due to Health Department standards.
7. Discussed personal protective equipment and procedures for food preparation.



JULYS MISSIONS PROJECT OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:



We are asking for your support for this ministry and here is why:

The Barnabas Ministries is passionately committed to reaching high-risk teens and their families with the message of freedom, hope, and healing found only in Jesus Christ.

Their vision is to create an environment where hurting teens can discover their value in Christ, grow in that knowledge and then pass that knowledge on to others. They have been serving the West Michigan community since 1995, primarily in Allegan and Ottawa Counties.

Barnabas has been an amazing part of Ashley's life and has continue to be a guiding factor in her decisions—visit Ashley at Hawk's Nest Restaurant in Hamilton. Give her a "way to go" or a High-five to affirm the progress in her life.

LUTHERAN CHURCH BACKPACK PROGRAM

We will continue to accept donations to support the Lutheran church backpack program. The Immanuel Lutheran Church is hoping to provide every student who needs one through the 4th grade. That is about 120 backpacks and supplies.

Deodorant	Spiral Notebooks	Pencils	Trapper Keepers	Brush and or Comb
Mechanical pencils with lead	Pencil Holders	Hand Sanitizer		Colored Pencils
Cap erasers	Band-Aids	Folders (5)	Highlighters	Inexpensive Water Bottles

We have a special labeled box for any supplies which is located in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for your support

Hands of Grace Food Pantry

NEW VOLUNTEERS: We have a opportunity to request volunteers from three (3) sober houses in Allegan. The Sheriff's Department contact will be informed June 20th.

Food and Personal Item Donations:

May & June

Village Market Donations:	356
Church donations:	225
Life Pyramid donations	75
Grand Total:	656

Cereal Totals:

Church	72
Class Act	10
Allegan County Community Foundation	12
Grocery Outlet	18
Total Cereal	116

Thank you Claudia and John for picking up items from Village Market twice per week.

Thanks for all the donations—the items help a lot.

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

MONTHLY – HUNGRY FOR CHRIST IN HAMILTON

This month's need is:



Cereal and Sugar

Hands of Grace Food Pantry Servers Needed.

If this is something you'd like to do, please reach out to Chris Jurkas.

****You can choose when you'd like to serve and how often.**

A Great way for High School seniors to earn service hours

Tuesday 9-11:45am

Wednesday 9-11:45am

5-7pm

Friday 10-11:45am

You can come give a hand during the summer if you have FREE time ☺

1- Greet and Check in families. (If you feel comfortable with this you will be taught very basic computer skills)

2- Hand out Food: Once the family is checked in then they come to the servers who provide the food.

3- Load Food cart on to the elevator

The families will then take the cart and load their car.

Van driver: Pick up food from local distribution warehouse here in Allegan.

Must feel comfortable in driving a cargo van. No special license is required.



Friday mornings Food delivery 8:15am-Aprox 9:30am in church Fellowship Hall

Unpack food from van, Pack food into smaller proportions

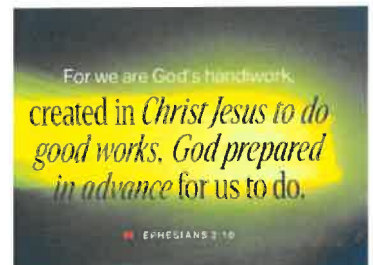
Fellowship when prepping is done.



YOU ARE EXTRAORDINARY.

Recently I added up several months of volunteer hours for the Food Pantry. When I realized the average hours worked **per week** (65 – 70 hours) I was astonished. From there I began thinking of all the volunteer working hours that our congregation freely gives and the generosity of financial support through the year. Here are a few that popped in my head:

Sunday School and Bible Study Leaders	Numerous people who volunteer to serve during Worship Services
Our Banner Lady	Annual Bazaar
Gardeners	Drivers for those in need
Participation on Committees or Board	How about those Parking Lot Sales or Dinner and an Auction
Memorial Luncheons	Christmas Baskets
Backpack Mission	Cleaning Supply Mission (BUCKET)
Volunteers in the Church Office	Library Coordinator
Monthly Special Offerings	Ag/Bake Table
Monthly Coffee hour	Parade Float and Easter Egg Hunt
Monthly Food Donations	



I know I have missed some on my list and I didn't go into details of how much work goes into each one. I am astounded and cannot begin to total how many hours our volunteers give and the financial generosity of all. If you see something that needs to be done, you do it. You give your time, talents and are financially generous. The Lord's spirit moves within us.



2025 – We and the Trustees are working on getting more items fixed at the Church. The Parking lot has been fixed and painted. New signs are up on the outside Church wall in the parking lot.

I now want to share with you where we are at with the Stonework and roof caps in order to get repaired – such that we can get the inside plaster areas repaired:

We have contacted 3 different Building repair companies. All 3 have come and looked at the roof stonework and inside plasterwork that needs repair. Two of the three basically don't even want to quote and won't even return my phone calls or emails. So, we are working with the one company that is willing to work with us.

The company is SB Masonry – the places where the stonework is on the roof is in a very difficult place to work on. Scaffolding will need to be created in order for the work to be completed. Not only do we have a Stonework issue – we have a Stained-Glass window that the framing is shot and waterlogged – water is getting in this and running to the corner of the church where that plaster is already cracked as we all know about. So, these two area items need to be fixed prior to the Plaster work being repaired.

The next issue is finding a company to do the Plasterwork – the SB Masonry company thinks he has a guy that can help us. We now are waiting for the quotes for all of this work.

I have received the quote for the Scaffolding to be installed - \$16,000. As we get more information, we will share this with everyone as this is a very visible thing for many of us.

May 2025 Balances:

General Fund = \$17,713 - up almost \$1,000 from 2024 year end.

Trustee Fund = \$36,212 - up almost \$1,000 from 2024 year end.

Food Pantry = \$6,787 - down almost 4,000 from 2024 year end

Memorial Fund = \$8,707 - same balance from 2024 year end,

Mutual Fund = \$119,053 - up almost \$14,000 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 5 months is about \$1,000 ahead of plan. We continue to watch this number as our budget was put together this year with a lot of faith that expenses would be kept down.

Cost Reductions for 2025

Cost reductions continue to be worked on. The Printer in the office had to be replaced due to age and working condition. We ended up with a refurbished newer model with a 5 year contract that was \$20 more per month than the older model.

The Phone system was changed from Spectrum to First Comm. The monthly billing went from \$178.61 to \$87.60 a savings of almost \$91 per month. This system is a 5 year contract so the Savings is almost \$1,090 per year.

Ministry Shares

We continue to work on generating 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 Food Pantry, Trustees or Ministry Shares.

The Finance team continues to work very hard to make good decision and to use our funds to their fullest extent. 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

Church and Parsonage Expenses-May
Income \$9,079.22

108	Annual Conference Offering (donation from Church)	\$	160.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	681.21
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,955.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	74.72
602	Charter Communications	\$	261.40
602	Michigan Gas	\$	236.32
602	Republic Trash Service	\$	268.62
602	Consumers Energy	\$	588.17
605	Larry Nelson (Parsonage Lawn)	\$	75.00
605	Larry Nelson (yard work Parsonage/1 snow day church)	\$	217.00
606	Staples (Church maintenance)	\$	150.36
705	Annual Conference Offering (rounded up to \$300 from Church Special offering taken at worship)	\$	140.00
705	Daryl Waggoner (reimburse Annual Conference)	\$	220.00
902	Ellen Bierlein (Lay Speaker 01Jun)	\$	100.00
	WAGES	\$	9,062.59
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR May	\$	14,190.39

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	45.38
603	Republic Trash service	\$	268.61
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	123.00
603	Michigan Gas	\$	82.77
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR May	\$	519.76
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$	14,710.15



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

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

May donation TOTAL: \$40.00

Total donation up until May \$ 192.00

July



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	7/6	7/13	7/20	7/27
Pianist	Sari Hammon	Ireland Armintrout	Ellen Bierlein	Patty Anderson
Liturgist	Sari Hammon	Bonnie West	Patricia Huth	Sally Adams
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Lisa and Brendan Campeau	Chris Jurkas Corlee Harris	Daryl Waggoner Lori Austin
Artistic Gifts	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Camera	Amanda Blom	Sarah Austin	DeLaet	Sarah Austin
Sound Tech	Amanda Blom	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman
Media	Amanda Blom	Sammi McPharlin	DeLaet	Sammi 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

Liturgist: Sunday Mornings
Contact Patty Anderson: panderson@alleganps.org

Chancel Choir: Wednesday nights at 7pm
Directed by Daryl Waggoner: daryl.waggoner@icloud.com

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

Ushers: Sunday Mornings
Contact Lori Austin: secretary@allumc.org

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 Thomas, our resident hat lady. Chris came to us from Monterey Center UMC as she could no longer drive and one of her neighbors invited her to our church. She may be little in stature but she is always willing to help out at ushering, funeral luncheons, garage sales, bazaar, dusting, making baked goods for our Ag/Bake table, and so many other areas in the church the list could go on and on.
Be sure to thank her when you see her as she is a gift to us.



Membership Classes Available!

Pastor Julia will be holding a **4-week Membership Class**, on Sundays after worship from **July 13th to August 3rd!** This class is open to anyone interested in exploring membership at AUMC, as well as any current members who would just like a "refresher" on what United Methodists believe and what membership in the church means! No materials needed, just bring yourself! The class will meet at the usual 10:45am Sunday School timeslot, in the Fellowship Hall.

It's Ag/Bake table Time

Come and see after Sunday worship, what yummy and healthy treats we have this year. The Ag/Bake table is located in the Fellowship Hall. **Cash donation.** All the proceeds from our Ag/Bake table this year will be going toward "Ministry Shares".
*****If you'd like to donate baked items, produce from your garden or fish from the lakes, please have to the church on Sunday mornings by 9 am. Thank you.**



Summer is here!

Would you like share a talent during worship - maybe you wrote a poem, know of a devotion that touched you, a short skit you & some friends could perform, an instrument or song you could play or sing.

Be creative!

If you know of a singing or instrumental group who would be willing to be part of our worship service, please let us know.

A sign-up sheet is on easel in FH. Contact Daryl Waggoner with any questions: daryl.waggoner@icloud.com



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.



If you have any spare plastic bags, (colored plastic is great too: yellow, gray, green..)

Please bring to the church Fellowship Hall and place over by the NEW LOOM. (Located by the TV

Everyone is welcome to work on the sleeping mats.



MORE INFORMATION TO COME

Invite a friend to church and stay afterwards for a potluck and fellowship.

Sunday August 3rd is Friendship Sunday.



Sunday September 14th.

Sunday school will BEGIN for ages K5-Adult.

More information to come.



Sarah Circle will meet on **Thursday, August 21st, 1:00pm** for a Potluck in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited.



Allegan County Fair Parade theme:

"Shine & Show through September's Glow"

More Parade float information to come.

Parade September 8th.

Annual Conference 2025

Pastor Julia, Cindy Thiele, and Daryl Waggoner were our church representatives this year.



Those blessed with the gift of music sang in the choir on Friday, and Sunday at the ordination.

Daryl Waggoner shared her gift.



The Ordination was a memorable day for all who attended.



Our church participated in Bridgefest this year.

This is always a great way to meet those in our community and to share Gods Love and information about our church family.

