



Allegan United Methodist Church – November 2025



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Piper Sewell, Joyce Brink, 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, 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 Merritt, 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-Matt Milbocker
3-Dan Barber
Nancy Peabody
Lisa Silver Cassidy
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



2025 Pastor's Report



On Oct. 19th, Allegan UMC met with six other area UMCs and our District Superintendent Dean Prentiss for our Church Charge Conference at Martin UMC. A task of this year's Conference was for pastors to provide a Pastor's report to be shared with their congregations.

Therefore, it is my joy to share with you some of the exciting things Allegan United Methodist Church has done since our last Church Conference in August of 2024. I will have, undoubtedly, forgotten to include something in this report that should not have been overlooked, but I will do my best and ask for your grace. That said, no one can deny that it's been a busy year, where we've faced new challenges, walked through exciting changes, and celebrated blessings plenty!

From Lasagna Dinner fundraisers to the UWF Christmas Bazaar, we have been working hard in service and offering hospitality to those entering our building. A building which is certainly aging, with the oldest wing being 120 years old, but our Trustees and members have been working hard in tending to its care. There have been many improvements, like a resealed parking lot, and new Fellowship Hall blinds. Last fall we were able to replace the roof over our sanctuary, and this winter there are more major repairs to be made – particularly in the sanctuary. Quotes for the work range widely, and the Trustees are working to determine what needs are most pressing as we enter winter. Conversations continue on what future work is needed, and how we might best utilize our space for our ministry.

Speaking of conversations, last November and January the congregation participated in two Courageous Conversations events to discuss the results of the 2024 General Conference, and even more people later participated in a survey to help leadership determine the congregation's opinions regarding how AUMC might respond to those changes. Of the 52 survey respondents, 50% were comfortable with our church hosting same-sex weddings, 25% were neutral or unsure, and 25% were not comfortable with it. In regards to accepting the appointment of a pastor who identifies as gay, 50% were comfortable, 26.9% were neutral or unsure, and 23% were not comfortable with it. Many of the Courageous Conversations participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to talk with one another, even within disagreement.

And yet, even as we had challenging conversations around change, we also celebrated a great deal of it as well! We banded together with our new District Branch #2 to assemble 40 UMCOR Flood Relief Buckets – with AUMC contributing enough supplies for 18 of those buckets! We also received a Midwest Missions loom from Hopkins UMC and managed to weave 4 sleeping mats out of grocery bags, and we plan to pass the loom on to another UMC soon. We finalized and implemented our new Protection Policy that will aid us in providing a more comfortable and welcoming space for young families and vulnerable adults. And while we grieved the loss of several beloved members this past year, we also celebrated the baptism of little Clayton, as well as 6 new members taking their membership vows to join our church family! While sadly our Girl Scout Troop has disbanded, our Boy Scouts/Scouting America troop continues to grow in numbers as well as having a great group of helping parents. The troop continues with fund raising, making pasties, supporting county & state with road pick-up, as well as traditional camping, working on merit badges, etc.

Thanks to our Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and so many other people who have lent their gifts, the Holy Spirit has continued to bless us in our worship. Whether it is for Lent or a Blessing of the Animals service, we've shared worship with area United Methodist, Episcopal and Lutheran congregations. And this church continues to grab Holy Humor Sunday by the horns and run with it in a truly exceptional way that always brings joy.

In 2024 we were able to increase our giving to Ministry Shares by 32%, and we've worked hard this year to continue that growth by dedicating our Change Jars and seasonal Ag/Bake Table to assist in that fundraising. This congregation continues its generosity in missional giving, so far this year having given over \$2,000 to various charitable organizations and missions, not including the over \$4,000 given to the food pantry alone. Indeed, the Hands of Grace Food Pantry continues to be a jewel in this church's crown, as a valuable way we serve and build relationships with our community. So far this year the Pantry has served 809 households, totaling 2,555 people! That's 2,555 people who experienced the grace of our Lord and encountered the face of Jesus in each one of our many dedicated volunteers.

Needless to say, I'm so deeply proud of all that this congregation has endured and accomplished as the body of Christ this year, and I'm excited to see what God has in store for us in this next year!

Blessings,
Pastor Julia

Well done, *good*
and *faithful*
servant!

Matthew 25:21

Recently our church came together to put on a Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction. Doing something like this requires a lot of planning and hard work but those who planned and worked pulled off a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and raised money for our general fund. John Watson, Kevin DeLaet, the Finance Committee, and workers from the age of 16-80+ worked tirelessly to welcome our church family and the community into our Fellowship Hall for an enjoyable Fall evening. Spirits were high as people visited while eating, enjoyed seeing folks they don't see often, and just relaxed on that rainy evening. The Silent Auction was a wide variety of items from sweets to tools. It was fun watching folks going up and checking the bids on the item or items they wanted right up to 7:00 p.m., when the winning bids were announced. Arlene had her eye on an antique candy dish and I can't tell how many times she went up there to be sure no one had outbid her. Fortunately for her, she won the bid! We are a family at Allegan United Methodist Church and we hope the others who came felt the love that dwells amongst us. When we come together and work together our relationship with our church family grows be it the fair parade, garage sale, special dinners, and so much more. I am very proud of my church and my church family. Willard and I can't help out as much as we used to but we support every effort made to keep our church afloat for AUMC owns a part of our hearts.

Dear God, Sometimes we have to pull up our boot straps and get to work to help our church out. Thank you for bringing me to this church 62 years ago as I am proud to call myself a member! You, God, are alive and well at AUMC as You are in the hearts of Your people as love grows here, take a look around you. Amen
-Blessings Judy



United
Women
in Faith

What are United Women in Faith doing here in our church?

Let me tell you about a few of them. Betty McDaniel has stepped up to manage the food pantry in the absence of Chris Jurkas's health problems. She is doing quite a bit of management with ordering supplies, scheduling, and computer records. Claudia Watson picks up lots of bread and bakery items twice a week for the pantry plus helps sort and divide food and supplies from the FCC Warehouse every Friday. Linda Flynn and Judy Jennings cleaned out the kitchen refrigerator. Some of those items left were over a year old. Now the refrigerator is clean and ready for the fall season. Eileen Brink, as UWF treasurer, continues to keep the books and records of this Unit of United Women in Faith. See the post on the bulletin board. Each one of these women has God given talents and time they are giving to the church and to the missions of the church. Don't forget to say hello, and thank you.

All Saints Day

Remembering the loved ones, who have gone on before us.



November 2024-October 2025

Kristine Baker
Adam Hughes
Ron Remington
Karen Rouse
Pat Jenkins
Ron Oetman
Tracy Rininger
Mark Varner

Eric Tooman
Mytron Lisby
Margot Sweet
James Sebright
Ricki Eastman
Hanford Brink
Patric Markoski
Jay Pound

Joy Masek
Patty Parliament
Eleanor Milhiem
Kim Haynes
Diane Dietrich
Wilbur Darby
Brenda Andrew
Billy Cline



To EVERYONE who lent a helping hand for the Lasagna Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser through planning, preparing the meal, donations, attending and so much more we say **THANK YOU!** We couldn't have done it without you!

OUT TOTAL PROFIT FOR THE LASAGNA DINNER & SILENT AUCTION WAS: \$5,158.00
This Fundraiser went to the General Fund.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who baked, gardened, and fished to help raise funds toward this year's Ministry Shares.
For our church family who visited the Ag/Bake table and donated with monetary gifts we hope you enjoyed your goodies and we say Thank you.

The Total this year for Ag/Bake Table is: **\$2,220.16**

We'll see you all next June when we will start back up the Ag/Bake Table.

Financial Corner – November 2025

Fantastic Lasagna and Silent Auction Fund Raiser – Stretch and Be Fearless – The Power of Generosity – Was definitely in the air on Saturday October 18th at the Allegan United Methodist Church. This year's Fundraiser was a huge success, as we fed 210 people. 117 people came and dined in at the Church from 5:00 – 7:00pm and 93 dinners were picked up and taken home. We had 27 items donated for the Silent Auction – thank you to all who donated and to those that bought.

Dinners = \$3,229

Silent Auction = \$1,929

Total = \$5158

A special thank you to everyone for making, serving, clean up, and buying of everything on this joyous fun event.

September 2025 Balances:

General Fund = \$9,873- down almost \$7,000 from 2024 year end.

Trustee Fund = \$38,694 - up almost \$3,000 from 2024 year end.

Food Pantry = \$2,967 - down almost \$7,000 from 2024 year end

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

Mutual Fund = \$127,905 - up almost \$22,000 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 9 months is about \$5,000 below 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. Expenses are basically at plan; however income is running somewhat behind plan. Last 4 weeks of giving have been up so, hopefully we can make it through the end of the year with the Fundraising donations.

New 2026 Budgeting – The 2026 Budget has been created with new numbers given to us by the Conference and our SPRC team. The Ministry Shares requested for 2026 is \$15,699.

The New Budget total is \$219,192 up approximately \$3,000 from last year.

The Stewardship drive will be starting on Sunday November 2. Sermons for the next 4 weeks will be associated with the Drive for this year. Sunday November 30 will be the Final Pledge day when Pledge Cards will be turned in. A letter will go out to the Congregation on Monday November 3. A follow up letter with the pledge cards will be mailed out on November 17. (Pledge cards can be turned in at any point once they are received to the Church office either by mail or dropping them off.)

Building Update - Bill Austin and I met with a Plaster Company recently. They were a little more positive than the previous company. They are still looking into what needs to be done and are working on getting us a quote. More to come as we know.

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-September
Income \$13,663.22

102	July POM Barnabas Ministries	\$	277.00
102	August POM (Wishbone Pet Rescue)	\$	154.00
108/119	Jacque James (organist Rose wedding)	\$	75.00
108/119	Amanda Blom (Custodian Rose wedding)	\$	40.00
149	Julia Humenik (reimbursement Discretionary Fund)	\$	60.00
165	Ministry Shares (June-August)	\$	70.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	681.21
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,955.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	519.17
602	Charter Communications	\$	85.00
602	First Communications (New Phone company)	\$	95.63
602	Michigan Gas	\$	41.16
602	Republic Trash Service	\$	101.84
602	Consumers Energy	\$	904.34
606	Ace Hardware (Custodian and Keys for Finance room)	\$	46.32
705	CCL Renewal (Yearly worship cast license)	\$	342.00
709	Konica Minolta Premier Finance	\$	236.36
903	Upper Room Devotional (every 2 month Lrg Print and Regular Print)	\$	108.40
	WAGES	\$	9,000.09
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR SEPTEMBER	\$	14,792.52

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	142.52
603	Republic Trash service	\$	50.92
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	100.00
603	Michigan Gas	\$	19.56
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR SEPTEMBER	\$	313.00

TOTAL (NON-AUDITED) \$ 15,105.52



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

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

September donation TOTAL: \$22.00

Total as of SEPTEMBER 30TH: \$329.00

AD BOARD REPORTS

October 23, 2025

Scouting- Joan Rininger

Troop 91c continues to GROW!! They have started their fall activities – camping, road pick-up, working on merit badges and Advancements, and planning another pasty fund raiser activity soon. Be sure to watch for a notice of the sale!

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

As of October 18, 2025, the AUMC has 169 members (congratulations to the five that joined the church this month!). There are 54 people listed as constituents.

UWF-Cindy Thiele

The annual UWF Bazaar will be Saturday December 6. Items for the treasure room are already coming in. We will also be looking for craft items and baked goods.

Recognition pins (mission) have been ordered and will be presented in the future.

The sleeping mat loom is being passed on to Westward UMC in Kalamazoo. We wove 4 mats.

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: The pantry currently has \$2,966.63 in the account. We are waiting on several grants—Allegan County Community Foundation, Perrigo Charitable Foundation and Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation.

Donation Request: **Spaghetti and Pancake Mix**

WE ARE STILL ACCEPTING SOUP UNTIL THE END OF THE MONTH.

Mission- Chris Jurkas

MISSION PROJECT OF THE MONTH-COMMUNION COLLECTION for NOVEMBER, 2025

Global Refuge (formerly known as Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service)

This nonprofit organization serves newcomers seeking safety, support and a share in the American dream. For 85 years, they have welcomed more than 800,000 of those seeking refuge from around the globe, 22,000 children & families reunited. They have over 50,000 volunteers across the US.

Fellowship – Amanda Blom

We have a game night in the works for mid-November. Water and soda provided by committee, bring your favorite game night snack to share. Looking to still have Souperbowl come February.

SPRC- Kevin DeLaet

SPRC met, minutes were kept.



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Food and Personal Item Donations:

August, September & October

Village Market Donations:	790
<u>Church donations:</u>	<u>545</u>
Grand Total:	1,335



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

- Served 809 Households, totaling 2,555 people so far in 2025
- We are patiently waiting if we will receive funds from:

Allegan County Community Foundation
Mignon Sherwood DeLano Foundation

Our congregation donated \$4,186.03 in cash donation so far this year.

NOVEMBER donation requests are:



Our Loom Mission has come to a close and will be handed off to Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo.
We were honored to have loomed 4 mats to the Midwest Missions.
Thank you to all who brought in plastic bags and or helped with the looming process.



We are blessed to say that we will be adopting 8 families from Dawson Elementary School again this year for our Christmas Baskets. We also currently have enough funds to purchase items needed, so there will be no monetary donations collected at this time.

So what is needed of our church family?

Contact Chris Jurkas (616)218-3966 if you are interested in helping with the calling of each family and buying the gifts with the funds we have.

November



WAYS TO



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	11/2	11/9	11/16	11/23	11/30
Pianist	Ireland Armintrout	Sari Hammon	Patty Anderson	Ellen Bierlein	Lisa Campeau
Liturgist	Lisa Campeau	Sammi Rose	Kathie Arney	Emily Bucklew	Daryl Waggoner
Advent Readings					Advent Begins TBA
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Betty McDaniel Barb Sanborn	Chris Jurkas Chris Thomas	Daryl Waggoner Tita Balgoyen	Barb Sanborn Chris Thomas
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Bells	TBA
Camera	Jon DeLaet	Amanda Blom	DeLaet	DeLaet	DeLaet
Sound Tech	John Brink	Tim Borgman	Amanda Blom	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman
Media	Sammi Rose	Jon DeLaet	DeLaet	Sammi Rose	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

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



Thank you to Betty McDaniel for taking on the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

If you want a prayer shawl please get a hold of Betty at 269-650-0623 or call the church office and leave the name of the person you are requesting shawl for. Betty will choose a prayer shawl from what we have here at the church and get it ready for the church family to pray over it during Sunday worship. Then Betty will reach out to the family for them to deliver the prayer shawl.



Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on two of our Food Pantry volunteers who show up every week even though they don't live in Allegan. Janet Earl lives in Plainwell and she works at the Food Pantry on a regular basis. Betty Dilsworth lives in Plainwell, but before that she lived in Holland, and she too drives over weekly to help out. That's a lot of dedication and time they give to our Hands of Grace Food Pantry. Be sure to thank them when you see them as they certainly deserve to have the spotlight shine on them.





NOVEMBER 1ST before heading to bed,
Turn your clocks BACK 1 HOUR
and enjoy that extra hour of sleep



GAME Night Get your game on!!

Join us for a game night! Bring your favorite game snack and a friend for a fun evening.

You can also bring your own board game or card game if you wish.

When will this fun-filled night happen?
Saturday, November 15th
from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



During worship on November 23rd we ask that you bring an "ORNAMENT" from home to hang on our church family Christmas trees that are in the sanctuary.

After worship on the 23rd, we will finish transforming the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall into the season of Advent with the 'Hanging of the Greens'.



Advent begins Sunday November 30th.

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

Sunday November 30th, December 7th, 14th, 21st, and the evening of the 24th for Christmas Eve worship.

Please contact the office if you are able to serve.



If you recall in January, Pastor gave us a kindly challenge to choose a "Yellow Star".

And on that "Yellow Star" was a word.

For the December newsletter I'm looking for people willing to share about their "Star Word".

Please email the office or write down and put in the wicker basket outside the church office door.

If you want to remain anonymous, please do not write your name on the piece.

Thank you and can't wait to see how the Lord guided you this past year.



TREASURE ROOM Items may be brought downstairs to our designated Treasure Room. Follow the signs downstairs which will lead you to the NEW Room.

Items **MUST BE CLEAN AND UNBROKEN ITEMS AND NO CLOTHING** PLEASE, By December 1st.

This year's Blessing of the Pets shared with The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, according to Pastor Julia "Was a roaring (woofing) success"! We blessed around 17 dogs and 1 cat.



Steve asking his mommy "please let me go home"



Providing the Blessings
Pastor Stoppel
Deacon Alma
Pastor Julia

Beautiful breeds of Dogs and their loving owners



Hopefully you walked away from the Lasagna Dinner Fully Satisfied.
We welcomed and fed approximately 210 people.



Though it was a rainy night,
the guests arrived ready to enjoy the evening.



Serving is always fun
when you serve alongside friends.

"How FAST do you think I can go on this?"



With tummies full,
fellowship and silent bidding
went on till 7pm.

