



Allegan United Methodist Church – January 2026



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:

Debra Beek, Ben Wood, Kim Emmons, Christina Thompson, 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.



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



13-Tim & Lori Dickinson

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What the new year brings to you will depend a great deal on what you bring to the new year.

VERN MCLELLAN



Dear Allegan UMC Family,

I want to thank you for what has been an incredible 2025.

It has not been an easy year on many fronts, but I'm so proud of all that this congregation has accomplished, all the ways we've shown up for our community and for each

other, and all the ways we've leaned into the love of God. The Holy Spirit is doing something here, and I'm thrilled to see what they'll do next.

I also want to give a special thanks to our leadership, including our staff, our committees and their chairpersons. You all have worked so hard this year - you're the muscles and tendons of this church body.

I invite the church to check out the 2026 Leadership Directory to see who is new to leadership this year.

I particularly want to welcome Kevin DeLaet as the new Administrative Board Chairperson, Tim Dickinson and Judy Jennings as the new SPRC Co-Chairs, and Sari Hammon as a new Co-Treasurer.

And finally, I want to thank everyone for the generous and thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts I've received. I'm so grateful to be a part of this church family.

Blessings to You and Yours in the New Year,

Pastor Julia



Another year is almost gone and a New Year is on the horizon. Looking back over 2025 there were blessings and heartache but knowing Him who walks beside us makes the journey easier. We have been blessed with so many wonderful people who have reached out, offered help, and just showed up when needed. Our kids have stepped up without being asked and our grandkids have been so helpful. People have dropped off puzzles for Willard, soup, sweets, and reached

out in so many different ways. We thank everyone for all the ways you have blessed our lives. Many have suffered heartache and loss and I can imagine how tough the Christmas season was for them. I hope they felt the love of their Heavenly Father and the love and care of family and friends. Our family still grieves for Jordan as every time we look in her little boy's face we see her and we are working hard to keep her memory alive for him. We, at Allegan United Methodist Church, are very blessed to be part of a church that is a family who cares about one another and offers comfort for those who mourn. One memory of 2025 I have is the miracle of Joyce Brink's liver transplant and the way everything worked as it should and she is rejoicing in being healthy again. Another miracle was Grace Switzer recovering from a fall and not being found for two days. God surely was there holding her hand and sending help. She still has some lasting effects but we all know the outcome could have been much different. How can we not believe there is a God?

God, sometimes we question You and wonder why things happen as they do but we trust You to know what is best for us. Having You in our hearts and lives gives us the hope and strength to go through whatever comes our way. Amen.

Blessings for a Happy and Healthy New year my friends, Judy



United Women in Faith

A big thank you to everyone for supporting the yearly bazaar.

Thank you to all the workers for their time and energy.

Thank you to all the church family we don't see Sunday morning for their generous gifts.

Thank you for the craft items, plates of goodies, breads, and soups.

Our community knows our church basement better than most as they explore the treasure room items. (We sold the big couch, wooden table, and a big Christmas tree among many more items.)

Again, many thanks to many of you for a successful bazaar.

Now----Who will receive a recognition pin next month?

In a recent morning devotion of mine the scripture highlight was;
Revelation 2:10 "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."
I would like to share that devotion with you:

"Our church has many older people in it." You've heard that statement, haven't you? Perhaps you've even said it.

In what tone of voice was it uttered: in despair or delight? Often, of course, the remark is just a way of expressing the desire for more young people in our midst, which is certainly appropriate. But let us never disregard or disrespect the contribution of the seniors among us.

Those of advanced age can be wonderful examples of constancy in the faith, especially when we see some young people leaving church after their confirmation. Many of those in the older generations have worshiped and served the Lord and lived pious and devoted Christian lives. We would do well to imitate them.

A SPECIAL THANK TO ALL OUR "Mature" church family members and for all you do for the Lord and for us your church family.



Please don't clap for the Choir?

That might sound strange to some, but hear us out: Many of us remember a time when musical worship performances weren't greeted with applause, but with silence. Not because the congregation didn't appreciate the performance - compliments were certainly given after worship. It was because the performance in worship wasn't for the approval of the audience, but for the glory of God. Applause was seen as praising the performers, and forgetting that the whole point of the song was to praise God. We don't clap after hymns, or scripture readings, or sermons...why the choir?

After some deliberation and discussion, the Chancel Choir has decided to reclaim that attitude of performance: asking that the congregation refrain from clapping after we sing. We appreciate your appreciation, but ask that you simply observe an attitude of prayer, and be present to the moment of praise. If you really need something to do with your hands, you may put them up and wave your fingers around "jazz hands" style.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask anyone in the choir.

(Note: The Bell Choir will happily accept silence, applause, or MasterCard.)

AD BOARD REPORTS

December 18, 2025

Scouting- Joan Rininger

The scouting program continues to grow and be active. Winter projects and winter outdoor activities continue. The next Court Of Honor is scheduled to be in January. The necessary papers required by the Trustees' committee for 2026 building usage by all scouting troops will be filed with the church secretary soon.

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

As of December 14, 2026, the AUMC numbers are 169 members and 53 constituents (down 1 – death of Terry Brink).

UWF-Cindy Thiele

The 2025 Bazaar is in the books. We collected \$2000 plus for our 2026 budget. Many thanks to all who worked, shopped, and donated to our yearly event.

SPRC-Kevin DeLaet

SPRC met and kept minutes.

Missions- Chris Jurkas

January 2026 Mission for the Month & Communion donation request:

Immigration Law & Justice-Michigan

Christmas Packages and Food

Pick up of gifts and Food is Saturday, December 20th 9:00am-12noon. Thank you everyone!

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: The pantry currently has \$12,482.09 in the account.

The pantry received \$7,000 from Mignon Sherwood Delano Foundation.

I just checked with Perrigo Charitable Foundation and they did not receive an application from our church.

Now we have to wait until 2026

Donation Request: Macaroni & Cheese.

From the Desk of the Trustees

2025 Annual recap- This year the church had many needed repairs to help keep the Church Facilities safe and operational. The Trustee's would like to thank all that had donated their time, dollars, and resources to help in the endeavors. As of November 2025, the balance in the Trustees was \$38,612, however, the Sanctuary Plaster repair, completed in Dec. (listed below) is still to be paid.

Below is a recap of the major maintenance items accomplished in 2025.

Fellowship Hall Flat roof repair-\$3,000.

Large Stained glass window Plastic wrap Protection-\$1,800.

New Water heater (Parsonage) and Humidifier (Church)-\$2,000.

Parking lot (Church and Parsonage)- Repair, Sealed and painted- \$4,960.

Elevator- New Accordion safety door 1st main floor- \$4,550.

Plaster repair of Sanctuary- \$28,375.

2026 Upcoming knowns- In this upcoming year, we are addressing a few additional known issues. We will be replacing the old fluorescent fixtures in the Kitchen with LED fixtures to address continued issues with the old lighting. This should also help with reducing energy consumption. We are having electrical issued from a power surge that happened in Allegan in Nov. 2025. This is affecting parts of the Church and will be looked at in late Dec/Early Jan.

We are unsure of the magnitude of this issue. We are getting quotes for other items, such as painting the sanctuary, repair on the larger Stained-Glass window protection and windowpanes. We will be looking into the exterior masonry concerns also. These prioritize the issues and maintenance of the church as they arise.

Again, thank you all for your help and support in keeping Gods' house our church home maintained.

-The Trustees

Financial Corner – January 2026

"Where your treasure is,
there your heart will
be also."

MATTHEW 6:21

2025 Updates = From a financial standpoint – a few things were completed in 2025.

The roof over the entranceway was repaired at a cost of \$3,000. The Stained-glass window on the right side of the sanctuary was covered with a plastic wrap material to protect the remaining frame until this spring or summer at a cost of \$1,800. The sanctuary plaster work has been completed at a cost of \$28,375. We are waiting on the quote from the 4 Aces painting company to paint the sanctuary. The trustees are working on the quote to get the lighting in the kitchen updated. The trustees are also looking into the electricity issues experienced recently in the church.

2026 Budget – The 2026 Budget has been completed and approved by the Ad Board. The budget is \$209,843. Of this budget \$5,000 was approved of the requested \$15,699 for 2026 Ministry shares.

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Budget | \$209,843 |
| 2026 Pledge | \$179,792 |
| Shortfall | \$30,051 |
| Fundraisers | \$11,000 (Shoe Drive, Ag/bake table, Dinner/Auction) |
| Annex R/E | \$7,154 (Funds that have not been utilized over 7 years) |
| Mutual Funds | \$11,897 (Mutual Funds are looked at as Emergency Funds – we hope not to use) |

This budget was very difficult this year as many people gave input and thoughts as to how to make a balanced budget. We were approved for a \$3,750 grant for Equitable Compensation grant for the pastor.

Fundraisers are sometimes a lot of work for the return; however the Finance committee has determined to do three (3) fundraisers this year with a goal of raising \$11,000.

Mutual Funds are really an emergency fund for when we really need something done at the church. We really don't want to take from this fund to run the church unless we really have to.

At this minute, with this plan we expect to come out of the 2025 year with about \$3,000 in the General Fund checkbook. So, on those days when we write the check for our offering if you think you can give a little bit more than normal, it will be put to a good use.

November 2025 Balances:

General Fund = \$8,791- down almost \$8,000 from 2024 year end.

Trustee Fund = \$38,612 - up almost \$3,000 from 2024 year end.

Food Pantry = \$3,922 - down almost \$7,000 from 2024 year end

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

Mutual Fund = \$130,155 - up almost \$25,000 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 11 months is about \$7,000 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.

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-November

Income \$12,413.01

| | | | |
|---------|--|-----------|------------------|
| 102 | Oct. POM Dolly Parton Imagination Library | \$ | 277.00 |
| 110-103 | Ministry Shares (July-October Coins) | \$ | 113.00 |
| 149 | Julia Humenik (reimbursement Discretionary Fund) | \$ | 120.00 |
| 300 | Michigan Conference "Benefits" | \$ | 681.21 |
| 502 | Michigan Conference "Health" | \$ | 1,955.00 |
| 602 | City of Allegan | \$ | 515.31 |
| 602 | Charter Communications | \$ | 85.00 |
| 602 | First Communications (New Phone company) | \$ | 95.29 |
| 602 | Michigan Gas | \$ | 166.39 |
| 602 | Republic Trash Service | \$ | 102.22 |
| 602 | Consumers Energy | \$ | 678.52 |
| 606 | Ace Hardware (Custodian) | \$ | 159.14 |
| 703 | US Postmaster (100 stamps) | \$ | 78.00 |
| 703 | Monthly mailing fee NL | \$ | 42.00 |
| 709 | A-Tech complete Computers (Media Computer) | \$ | 120.00 |
| 709 | Konica Minolta Premier Finance | \$ | 236.36 |
| | WAGES | \$ | 8,973.32 |
| | TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER | \$ | 14,397.76 |

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

| | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|------------------|
| 603 | Consumer Energy | \$ | 63.72 |
| 603 | Republic Trash service | \$ | 51.12 |
| 603 | Spectrum (Phone, Internet) | \$ | 100.00 |
| 603 | Michigan Gas | \$ | 56.36 |
| | TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR NOVEMBER | \$ | 271.20 |
| | TOTAL (NON-AUDITED) | \$ | 14,668.96 |



**Last year's 2025 "Change Jar" donations went toward
"MINISTRY SHARES"**

November donation TOTAL: \$35.00

Total as of November 30th: \$395.00 (We have yet to total up December)



**January 2026 Mission
for the Month & Communion donation request:**

This mission welcomes and supports low-income immigrants with free immigration legal services and public advocacy. The immigration system is complex, and many low-income immigrants cannot afford legal assistance, leaving them vulnerable to fraud and exploitation. The legal staffs are trustworthy and highly skilled. The ILJ-M began as a ministry of FUMC in Grand Rapids, then as ministries of UMCs in Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Metro Detroit and Traverse City. In 2018 the four clinics merged into one statewide organization.



Food and Personal Item Donations:

November & December

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Village Market Donations: | 710 |
| Church donations;; | 75 |
| Village Inn: | 113.5 |
| Scott Dangramond - venison | 8 |
| Matt & Cole Milbocker- venison | 23 |
| Popcorn-Matt in Kalamazoo | 40 |
| Grand Total: | 969.5 |

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

***The pantry received \$7,000 from Mignon Sherwood Delano Foundation.**

This month's request: Macaroni & Cheese.



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

| | 1-4 | 1-11 | 1-18 | 1-25 |
|------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Pianist | Lisa Campeau | Sari Hammon | Patty Anderson | Ireland Armintrout |
| Liturgist | Sammi Rose | Daryl Waggoner | Kathie Arney | Emily Bucklew |
| Ushers | Joan Rininger Linda Flynn | Daryl Waggoner Lori Austin | Chris Thomas Betty McDaniel | Barb Sanborn Kevin DeLaet |
| Music | Choir | TBA | Choir | Hand Bells |
| Camera | DeLaet | Amanda Blom | DeLaet | Amanda Blom |
| Sound Tech | Jon Brink | Tim Borgman | Tim Borgman | Jon Brink |
| Media | Amanda Blom | Sammi Rose | DeLaet | Sammi Rose |



UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

In early 2026 we will be having a SHOE FUNDRAISER.

So start looking in your closets for gently worn or for those new shoes you forgot to return, to help with the fundraiser. No size shoe will be turned away. ☺

Drop boxes will be placed in Fellowship Hall when Fundraiser begins.

More informatin to come.



Coffee & Fellowship time

1st Sunday of the month

Coffee & Fellowship time is offered the 1st Sunday of each month in our Fellowship Hall.

Basic hosting requirements:

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.



Our Prayer Shawl Ministy is in need of shawls.

The shawls can be any colors you choose to knit or crochet.

Please turn into the office when completed. Thank you.



Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Mary Gardea, one of our newer members. Mary came into our midst and began to get involved in many areas. She is an intake person for the Hands of Grace Food Pantry and helps every Friday when they get the warehouse order. She plays in the Chancel Ringers Bell Choir and has been playing bells for many years. She and her husband, Mike, worked the Lasagna Dinner and they helped when helpers were needed to move the pews for the sanctuary project. Be sure to welcome Mary and thank her for her involvement in the church and for bringing Mike to help when help is needed.

Dinner with Sinners

Is a fellowship opportunity that meets monthly.

Thursday, January 8th at 5:30pm

The Grill House

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.



Wanted: Baby food jars and lids.

Please drop off at the church office for Cindy Thiele.

If you bought some of Cindy's jams you could return those as jars to her as well.

Thank you.

The FUN Times we shared with one another in 2025.

Souper Bowl
Soup winners



UMCOR
Bucket Mission with Hopkins UMC



Dinners with Sinners Food and Fellowship



UWF District Event held here at AUMC



Lenten Meals



Egg Hunt



Good Friday Worship



Holy Humor Sunday



Annual Conference



Bridgefest



New Members ☺



Allegheny County Fair Parade



Blessing of the Pets



Mission- Looming Sleeping Mats



Plastering of Sanctuary



Carols by Candlelight



Longest Night Meditative Worship



Christmas Eve Service

