

Allegan United Methodist Church – February 2026



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Piper Sewell, Joyce Brink, Willard Jennings, Emberly DeBruyne, Jim Elmore, June Fullerton, Trevah Dalrymple, Shari Bradley, and Tim Closson.

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:

Ginny Borgman, Mark Bolyen, 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.



3-Angel Ruiz	27-John Watson
Xander Ruiz	28-Sheryl Parrish
6-Tina Thiel	29-Sam Armintrout
8-Scott Dangremond	
11-Amanda Blom	
12-Lee Heckman	
16-Alli Dangremond	
18-John Blackburn	
20-Doris Fuller	
22-Nathan Giles	
Sue Thiel	
23-Joshua DeBruyne	
Barb Sanborn	

When you *change*
the way you *look* at things, the things
you look at *change*

- Dr. Wayne Dyer



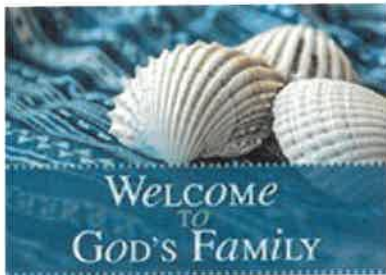
"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." When I stand, at sporting events, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance, I find it far more meaningful with what is going on in our country. We are a divided nation, we are not exhibiting justice for all, and it feels like under God is being overlooked. Senseless killings, raids, riots, and scary things happening that it makes one wonder what's happening to our country? The preamble to the Constitution starts out with "We the people of the United States, in order to create a more perfect Union..." We are very far from having a more perfect Union and

one has to wonder if we will ever get back to justice for all. My mom always talked the pendulum on the clock and how sometimes it goes too far one way and can't come back, is this where we are today? Ephesians 4-31 instructs Christians to eliminate negative emotions and behaviors like bitterness, rage, anger, shouting (clamor) and slander replacing them with love, kindness, and forgiveness as exemplified by God in Christ. Why is it so hard for us to do that? Perhaps if we lived out the words to "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and let peace begin with us we might be able to make a difference. Hopefully those in power can find the path to the peace that was meant to be. And the song continues "with God as our Father, brothers all are we, let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony."

God, the things that are going on in our country are so scary and upsetting, please help us find our way back to being a country where there is liberty and justice for all.

Amen.

- Blessings my friends, Judy



We Welcomed into God's family and our church family Christine Milhiem. Christine proclaimed Christ as her Savoir and was baptized on Sunday January 25, 2026.



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.)

Financial Corner – February 2026

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)

Fundraisers - 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.

December 2025 Final Balances:

General Fund = \$7,762- down almost \$9,000 from 2024 year end.

Trustee Fund = \$14,577 - down almost \$21,000 from 2024 year end. Sanctuary plaster completed.

Food Pantry = \$11,856 - **up almost \$1,000 from 2024 year end**

Memorial Fund = \$7,107 - down almost \$1,600 from 2024 year end,

Mutual Fund = \$130,959 - **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 barrowed in 2024 for Sanctuary roof replacement.

2026 update – With the start of the New Year, the weather being very snowy and cold causing lower than normal attendance on Sundays and year beginning costs being up, the checking account has dropped lower than we like it to be. A decision has been made to move \$5,000 from the Mutual Funds to the General Fund.

With this move already in the year – this now makes our Fundraisers that much more important for 2026.

Shoe Drive Fundraiser - The Shoe Fundraiser is planned for March 2 – April 30.

We have already started collecting shoes from within the Church congregation as we have put out 2 Cardboard Boxes and a Plastic tote for people to bring in shoes and put them into.

Shoes are – men's, women's and children's shoes, boots, baseball shoes, Football shoes, sandals, Flip Flops – basically any footwear that has been gently used.

We will be receiving Plastic Bags from "Shoes 2 Orgs" we will put 25 pairs of shoes in a bag and close it up waiting shipment. We will receive basically 50 cents per pound of shoes. Our goal is to collect 6,000 pairs of shoes – this would be approximately \$3000.

We will be running ads and hitting social media soon. We will be placing Boxes in multiple local places of business.

We are asking for help from the congregation as we get closer to help pick up shoes from the local places of business.

Please let Lori or any member of the Finance team if you can help pick up a couple of times from March 2 – April 30 or help load up plastic bags.

Ag/Bake Table – Starts in June.

Dinner/Silent Auction – Fall of 2026. We will be looking for about 20 items for this event. You can start preparation of items for this event already on the snowy and cold days. (I have heard that an individual has already started working on a beautiful Coffee Table)

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

AD BOARD REPORTS

January 15, 2025

Scouting- Joan Rininger

Troop 91/191 begins 2026 with 24 active members (two families have dropped scouting membership). The next Cross-Over ceremony is planned for March with a possible 6 Cubs joining the rank of Scout. The 2026 Calendar was presented to the committee, and the planned activities were discussed and approved. The committee also approved the final 2025 finance report. The first CAN/BOTTLE DRIVE is scheduled for February 21. There are four Court Of Honors planned for this year, and the first one is on January 25.

Scout Luke Skrycki has obtained the rank of Eagle. Luke was given a scholarship to finish his senior year of high school in a private School of Arts in Chicago but accepted with the agreement he could finish his Eagle Scout project! Luke joins his older brother and sister in the rank of Eagle, and his two younger siblings are working at achieving the same rank!!

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

As of January 10, 2026, AUMC has a membership of 168 (down 1 due to death of Ed Garvin) and 53 constituents.

UWF-Cindy Thiele

Eilene Brink has closed out the UMF books for 2025. We are in good shape for 2026. We have 3 persons receiving recognition pins to be presented in February.

SPRC-Judy Jennings and Tim Dickinson

SPRC met, minutes were kept

Trustees- Bill Austin

We are moving forward with replacement of kitchen lights (\$4,040), scheduled on January 26th, 2026. We have the quote for painting the Sanctuary, which John has, (\$6,800), date to be determined. Electrical issue addressed. Traced electrical issues to damaged fuse, \$1,300.

Activities Committee – Amanda Blom

We have a couple of upcoming events in the works. The first is a Super Brunch Potluck on February 8th after worship (no Sunday School.) This is in place of the usual Souperbowl game night. Hoping to see more people this way. The other event we have been working on is a game night. We are planning on a White Elephant Bingo Night on Sunday March 15th from 3-5 pm. Committee will be providing soups and dessert for the event. White Elephant items to be donated and given as prizes (gently used items, unopened items, cans of soup, bag of candy, etc.) Will be making flyers to be given to food pantry clients and anyone who would enjoy a fun night of Bingo.

Missions- Chris Jurkas

FEBRUARY 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST: HANDS OF GRACE FOOD PANTRY

Project of the Month Organizations and their Totals for 2025:

Jan: Love Inc. (100 Homes) \$458	Feb: UMCOR California Fires \$235	March: UMCOR (General/Admin) \$492
April: Ministry Shares \$182	May: After the Storm \$163	June: Immanuel Lutheran Backpacks \$147
July: Barnabas Ministry \$277	Aug: Wishbone Pet Rescue \$154.00	Sept: Mobility World \$367
Oct: Dolly Parton \$277	Nov: Global Refuge \$110	Dec: Heifer International \$237
Imagination Library		
Total year for Mission POM: \$3099.00		

Jan-Dec 2025 Sunday Worship Offerings Ministry Shares: \$825

Jan-Dec 2025 Change Jars Ministry Shares: \$445

Jan-Dec 2025 Ag/Bake Ministry Shares: \$2,235.16

Ministry Share Total: \$3,505.16

Special Offerings for 2025

Feb: Midwest Missions Buckets \$1,000 May: Annual Conference Offering: \$160

October: Wishbone Pet Rescue (Blessing of the Pets) \$70

Special Offering Total: \$1,230

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Food and Personal Item Donations:

December & January

Village Market Donations 156

Church Donations 55

Grant TOTAL 211

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 NOW Harding's

Weekly- First Congregational Warehouse in Allegan

Monthly- Hungry for Christ in Hamilton

Financial: The pantry currently has \$11,484.63



FEBRUARY 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION

DONATION REQUEST:



HANDS OF GRACE FOOD PANTRY

In 2025 we served 3,263 Households

Grants: \$7,000 from Delano

\$98.46 left over from Great Lakes

Our church donated: \$5,333.23

Thank you to our generous church and grant recipients for keeping our food pantry alive.

Let's keep our food pantry thriving!!

Food Pantry Need for February: Pancake Mix & Pancake Syrup



Church and Parsonage Expenses-December **Income \$16,998.07**

102	Global Refugee (POM Nov)	\$	110.00
108-165	Ministry Shares (Sept-Nov)	\$	380.00
110-101	Ministry Shares (Ag/Bake 2025) <small>Late donation</small>	\$	15.00
110-103	Ministry Shares (November Coin Jars)	\$	35.00
300	Michigan Conference "Benefits"	\$	681.21
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	1,955.00
602	City of Allegan	\$	297.97
602	Charter Communications	\$	85.00
602	First Communications (New Phone company)	\$	95.29
602	Michigan Gas	\$	556.08
602	Republic Trash Service	\$	102.73
602	Consumers Energy	\$	1,056.47
605	Larry Nelson (Nov-Dec, Shovel Snow)	\$	242.25
606	Ace Hardware (Custodian)	\$	122.72
702	Staples (Copy Paper)	\$	58.97
705	CCLI (Licenses... Church Copyright, Streaming, Song Select, CCS Performance Music)	\$	804.00
705	Hoekstra (Media issues)	\$	50.00
705	TKH Group, PC (Professional Service Financial)	\$	1,600.00
709	Konica Minolta Premier Finance	\$	236.36
902	Daryl Waggoner (Guest Speaker 12-28-2025)	\$	100.00
903	Julia Humenik (Reimburse Poinsettias)	\$	79.90
903	Upper Room (LG Print and Small Print)	\$	108.75
903	Bill Austin (Reimburse (3)Christmas Tree Storage Bags)	\$	122.72
	WAGES	\$	8,577.38
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR DECEMBER	\$	17,472.80

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	99.65
603	Republic Trash service	\$	51.37
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	100.00
603	Michigan Gas	\$	118.86
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR DECEMBER	\$	369.88
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$	17,842.68



Last year's 2025 "Change Jar" donations went toward "MINISTRY SHARES"
TOTAL FOR THE FULL YEAR \$445.00



Coin Jars Donation for 2026 will once again go toward MINISTRY SHARES.
Only you can make the CHANGE COUNT ☺



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	2-1	2-8	2-15	2-22
Pianist	Sari Hammon	Ellen Bierlein	Ireland Armintrout	Patty Anderson
Liturgist	Sari Hammon	Sally Adams	Bonnie West	Lisa Campeau
Ushers	Joan Rininger Linda Flynn	Lisa Campeau TBA	Barb Sanborn Chris Thomas	Daryl Waggoner Betty McDaniel
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Hand Bells
Camera	Amanda Blom	DeLaet	DeLaet	DeLaet
Sound Tech	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman	Amanda Blom	Jon Brink
Media	DeLaet	Sammi Rose	DeLaet	DeLaet



♪ 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

✦ If you'd like to serve on a Church committee please reach out to Pastor.

Ad Board, Finance, Trustees, Worship Committee, SPRC, Missions, Education, Nominating/Leadership Committee, or Food Pantry.



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 Volunteer Spotlight shines on Ireland Armintrout. Ireland grew up in our church and learned to play the bells and is now directing our Chancel Ringers! Playing the piano for meditation music is another gift she shares with us. When she was younger she was a very lovely dancer, perhaps someday she will do a liturgical dance for us. She is a delightful young woman and a teacher at Allegan High School. Be sure to thank Ireland for all the ways she blesses our church.



Dinners with Sinners
Is a fellowship opportunity that meets monthly.
Thursday, February 5th at 5:30pm
Vitale's (Allegan)

Happenings in



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.



Potluck

SUPER SUNDAY POTLUCK

After worship on Sunday February 8th.

Bring your favorite Brunch Potluck dish into the kitchen by 9am Sunday morning.

If unable to bring a dish, please don't let that stop you from coming and enjoying Food and Fellowship. All Are Welcome. ☺



Ash Wednesday February 18th

- AUMC Carside Ashes, 11am-12pm

- Plainwell First United Methodist Church, service at 6:00 p.m.



Bring your cans and bottles to the Scout Troop 91/191 can/bottle fund raiser on
Saturday, February 21, from 10:00am - 5:00pm,
at the C-COM location (corner of M-40 & Monroe Road)



Upcoming Fund Raiser Starting March 2nd

WANTED NEW or GENTLY WORN SHOES

ANY SIZE or STYLE

(Heels, Flats, Crocks, Sport Cleats, Tenny Shoes, and Snow boots, Hiking Boots, Cowboy, Steel Toe Boots, Rain Boots,... the whole shoe department☺)

If you wear them on your feet we'll take them as a donation.

Shoe Drop Off boxes are in the FH NOW in case you'd like to start bringing in earlier than March.

Lenten Meals



Lenten Meals 5:45pm-6:30pm. Church Fellowship Hall.
A small devotional lead by Pastor Julia after each meal.

Wednesday March 4 th - Potato Bar	(Sponsored by UWF)
Wednesday March 11 th - Soup Bar	(Sponsored by Chancel Choir)
Wednesday March 18 th - Pasta Bar	(Sponsored by Bell Choir)
Wednesday March 25 th - Taco Bar	(Sponsored by Ad Board)