



Allegan United Methodist Church - MARCH 2026



HEALTH CONCERNS:

Piper Sewell, Joyce Brink, Willard Jennings, Emberly DeBruyne, Jim Elmore, June Fullerton, 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:

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.



2-Chris Anderson
19-Lisa Moore
21-Megan James
25-Dick Randels
26-Abigail Hall
27-JoAnne Giles



14-Terry & Donna Skoglund
31-Tom & Jan Tuffelmire

Hello March

M ay the early spring
A waken your soul and
R emind you to
C elebrate the season with the
H ope and Joy it brings





Ash Wednesday began the season of Lent for our Christian faith.

Pastor Julia was able to give blessings to 14 recipients.

There were some who came by car and others were walkers.

What a blessing to have this outreach.

The evening Ash Wednesday worship service with

Hope Lutheran and Plainwell First UMC was a blessing as well.

A soloist from Plainwell First UMC sang the Lord's Prayer that; I know for me brought tears to my eyes.

Key Aspects of Ash Wednesday (taken from Google)

- **Significance of Ashes:** Ashes are made from the burnt palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. They are applied in the sign of the cross, often accompanied by the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel" or "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return".
- **Beginning of Lent:** It initiates a 40-day period (excluding Sundays) of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, symbolizing Jesus's 40 days in the desert.
- **Repentance and Reflection:** It is a time to focus on spiritual discipline, acknowledge human brokenness, and seek forgiveness.

Pastor Sermon Series for the Lenten season

"Through the Valley: A Lenten Series on Lament"

2/22- "Why Lament?" - Psalm 13

3/1 - "Lament and Honesty" - Job 13:1-13

3/8 - "Lament and Surrender" - Matthew 26:36-46

3/15 - "Lament and Community" - Esther 4:1-5

3/22 - "Lament and Hope" - Lamentations 3:19-24

Lenten Meals 5:45pm-6:30pm

Church Fellowship Hall

A small devotional lead by Pastor Julia after each meal

Wednesday March 4th- Potato Bar (Sponsored by UWF)

Wednesday March 11th- Soup Bar (Sponsored by Chancel Choir)

Wednesday March 18th- Pasta Bar (Sponsored by Bell Choir)

Wednesday March 25th- Taco Bar (Sponsored by Ad Board)



Have you ever wanted to sing in the choir, but didn't want the full commitment? Well, this is the right time for you. We'd like to bring Easter morning worship into its Full glory and want to invite you to sing with us. The choir meets on Wednesday nights at 7pm in the choir room. We will rehearse the Easter piece first, and then you will be free to go back to your evening plans. Rehearsal for the Easter piece should only take 30minutes of your evening. 😊



I found myself mesmerized by the 19 Buddhist Monks who walked for peace over 120 days covering 2,300 miles. They walked through rain, snow, sleet, ice, and sometimes with bare feet! What began as a quiet pilgrimage became a small but unmistakable seed of something much bigger reminding us that even though we are divided peace is still attainable. Step by step they walked and were welcomed in every town and state they passed through, if I lived closer to wherever they passed through, I would have gone to see them as they really touched my heart. Their walk reminded us gentleness is still a powerful force and we need to put one foot in front of the other with an open and hopeful heart.

Dear God, May we, as Your disciples, forge a path that leads to peace in our country and in our world. Let us not be afraid to step out in faith and work to bring peace back step by step. With You, as our guide, peace is attainable as nothing is impossible with You. Amen

Blessings my friends, Judy



United Women in Faith

A pin of recognition was presented to Chris Jurkas, Claudia Watson, and Daryl Waggoner.

Chris has been a volunteer of the Hands of Grace food pantry from its official beginning in 2011. She is on the leadership team ordering food, supplies, and writing reports for the newsletter. Chris is also chairperson of the Mission Committee. She helps plan each month's POM or project of the month for the year-- where we donate at communion. As part of both these committees, Chris has been very involved with the Christmas baskets. Chris also volunteers for fair parade float, our fundraiser events, and United Women activities such as the bazaar.

Claudia is a behind the scenes volunteer. Claudia is a big help in designing the Fair floats and developing the themes. She also supplies décor and props for that float. Did you know she picks up loads of bread from Village Market/Hardings for the food pantry each week? Claudia volunteers for the church fundraisers. She's a good planner, supports and sometimes controls John's projects, gives her time and crock pots of chili. I don't know how much she helps with all the veggies for the Ag table, but we thank her.

You know Daryl as our choir director. She also teaches adult Sunday school. She is the leader of the Monday by women's Bible study. Darrell volunteers as secretary for the Administrative board. She is a lay member to Annual Conference. She is a lay speaker. She works shifts for the food pantry, volunteers as a liturgist and usher, and is part of United Women.



Book review / Church library

"Quote and counter Quote". You can find a quote from the Bible to back any opinion. The book Cross Examined by Josh Scott looks to reading the Bible in times of division.

He points to texts in the Bible for racism, gender equality, LGBTQ and inclusion, Christian nationalism, and the weaponizing of the Bible. Check out this small book in our church library for another perspective on these issues. Let's get reading and talking.



MARCH 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:

UMCOR Sunday-Administrative Cost for UMCOR

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) covers its administrative and operating costs primarily through special UMCOR offerings and UMCOR Sunday-which is March 15, 2026.

This allows 100% of donations made to specific projects to go directly to that cause.

Please support Administrative Cost for UMCOR.

UMCOR Sunday March 15th

In 2025, UMCOR responded to 115 humanitarian crises around the world. These responses were strengthened by gifts to the UMCOR Sunday offering, which helps to cover administrative costs so that donations given throughout the year go directly to those in need



Food and Personal Item Donations:

November, December, January & February

Village Market/Hardings Donations	430
Church donations	687
<u>Peanut Butter Drive</u>	<u>12</u>
Grand Total:	1,129

Note: We are fortunate enough to receive an abundance of FRESH, FROZEN, and CANNED GOOD/SUPPLIES every week/monthly from the following places:

- Bi Weekly-Hardings
- Weekly- First Congregational Warehouse in Allegan
- Monthly- Hungry for Christ in Hamilton

Financial: The pantry currently has \$11,579.65.

March Donation needs:
Chicken Noodle Soup and Cream of Mushroom Soup

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



AD BOARD REPORTS

February 19, 2026

Scouting- Joan Rininger

No change this month – 168 members and 53 constituents.

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

Activities continue with a skiing outing, over-night campout, Court of Honor, ice skating, and regular meetings on Sundays.

Troop 91/191 has two fund raisers coming this next week! Can and Bottle Drive on Saturday, February 21, located at C-COM (corner of M-40 & Monroe Road) **AND** on Monday, February 23, from 4:00-8:00 the troop will be your servers at the Allegan Pizza Hut (all tips & small percentage of sales goes to the troop).

The Cross Over ceremony for Cubs moving to the rank of Scout will be in March. There are possibly six Cubs that wish to continue in the scouting program.

The Car and Crafty show fund raiser was such a success last spring that another is in the planning! Several crafters are already planning on being there again and the Corvette Club and many individuals are already planning on attending the show with their special cars. More information will be available in March.

UWF-Cindy Thiele

Recognition pins were presented to Chris Jurkus, Claudia Watson, and Daryl Waggoner.

The United Women will host the first Lenten meal on March 4th.

April 18th Saturday is the Soul Care Retreat at Kalamazoo First UMC sponsored by the District UWF.

The Grad Sunday Reception will be May 17th.

SPRC-Judy Jennings and Tim Dickinson

SPRC will meet on March 17 and have begun the search for a new secretary.

Activities Committee – Amanda Blom

White Elephant Bingo March 15th 2-4pm

Missions- Chris Jurkas-

MARCH 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: The pantry currently has \$11,579.65 in the account.

Donation Request: Chicken Noodle Soup and Cream of Mushroom Soup

Church and Parsonage Expenses-January
Income \$21,277.05

102	Heifer International (December POM)	\$ 237.00
103	Sylvia's Place (Poinsettias, Remembrance Donation)	\$ 525.00
108-115	Chris Jurakas (reimburse Christmas Baskets)	\$ 358.01
149	Julia Humenik (Discretionary Fund)	\$ 150.00
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$ 2,060.33
601	Bartz Rumery Agency	\$ 351.00
601	Bartz Rumery Agency	\$ 2,087.25
602	City of Allegan	\$ 92.21
602	Charter Communications	\$ 85.00
602	First Communications (New Phone company)	\$ 94.67
602	Michigan Gas	\$ 814.41
602	Republic Trash Service	\$ 338.84
602	Consumers Energy	\$ 1,066.34
605	Ivan Busfield (Snow Plow nov-Dec)	\$ 270.00
602	Karen Harvey (Snow Shovel Jan)	\$ 120.00
703	U.S. Postmaster (Stamps and Monthly mailing fee for 1 year)	\$ 582.00
709	Konica Minolta Premier Finance	\$ 236.36
709	Action Piano Service (Tuning the Sanctuary Piano)	\$ 195.00
807	Daryl Waggoner (Reimbursed Choir MP3)	\$ 109.80
	WAGES	\$ 8,953.52
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR JANUARY	\$ 18,726.74

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$ 133.41
603	Republic Trash service	\$ 169.41
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$ 100.00
603	Michigan Gas	\$ 174.38
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR JANUARY	\$ 577.20
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$ 19,303.94



Coin Jars Donation for 2026 will once again go toward "MINISTRY SHARES".

Only you can make the CHANGE COUNT ☺

JANUARY COIN JAR TOTAL: \$35.00



WE'RE HIRING!

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Allegan United Methodist Church is searching for a part-time office administrator (21 hrs./week). \$13.73/hr. with possibility of future growth. Preferred familiarity with Microsoft Office. Please contact Rev. Julia Humenik at jrhumenik@gmail.com with any inquiries.



WORSHIP SERVERS FOR THIS MONTH

	3-1	3-8	3-15	3-22	3-29
Pianist	TBA	Ellen Bierlein	Ireland Armintrout	Patty Anderson	Sari Hammon
Liturgist	Daryl Waggoner	Tim Dickinson	Sari Hammon	Kathie Arney	Ellen Bierlein
Ushers	Lori Austin Linda Flynn	Chris Jurkas Sandy Oetman	Daryl Waggoner Lori Austin	Barb Sanborn Chris Thomas	Betty McDaniel Tita Balgoyen
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	Bells	TBA
Camera	DeLaet	Amanda Blom	DeLaet	DeLaet	Amanda Blom
Sound Tech	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman	Tim Borgman	Jon Brink	Tim Borgman
Media	Amanda Blom	Sammi Rose	DeLaet	Sammi Rose	DeLaet



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE CHURCH NURSERY

We are sending out a plea for volunteers in our church nursery. There are certain guidelines we have to follow for the protection of the children who are placed in the nursery by their parents or by a family member. At all times we are to have 2 non-related adults, unless there is only one family in the nursery

then it could be two family members. The nursery is a vital part of our ministry as we welcome young families and they need to know their children are safe with us. See Pastor Julia for any questions you may have.

Mark 10:13 says Let the little children come into me...for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these



Car rides needed for Sunday worship for Jeff

Please the sign-up sheet on the Easel in the Fellowship Hall.



Share the news with your family and friends.

SHOE FUNDRAISER STARTS March 2nd - April 30th.

WANTED! NEW or GENTLY WORN SHOES ANY SIZE or STYLE

DROP OFF SIGHTS ARE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN-Ace Hardware, Westside Auto Service, Allegan Credit Union, Family Farm and Home, Hunting Bank, or bring to the church Fellowship Hall



Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Joan Rininger. Joan wears many hats at our church and she wears them very well. For many years she has served on the Finance Committee, takes the committee minutes, and is a counter on Monday mornings. She has worked hard on the many fund-raisers the Finance Committee has had and is one of the cashiers at our Bazaar. She is Aunt Joan to the Scouts, who meet in our building, and keeps the church informed on their various actives and upcoming events. Joan is part of the Administrated Board and is a fount of information when it comes to church history. She also ushers once a month. Joan, a blessing in our midst be sure to thank her when you see her.



SPRING FORWARD

SPRING FORWARD 1 HOUR
BEFORE HEADING TO BED ON **SATURDAY MARCH 7th**

Happenings in



Dinners with Sinners
Is a fellowship opportunity that meets monthly.
Thursday, March 5th 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.



SHOE Fundraiser Starting March 2nd
WANTED NEW or GENTLY WORN SHOES
ANY SIZE or STYLE

We'll accept the whole shoe department 😊

Shoe Drop Off boxes are in our Fellowship Hall and Allegan's-Ace Hardware and Westside Service.
Share the news with your family and friends!

Schoolcraft United Women in Faith invite the women of your congregation to a

Lenten Tea

Monday, March 23 2:00pm
Schoolcraft UMC, 342 N. Grand Street
RSVP by March 16: 269-679-4845



For more information Please see flyer hanging on UWF bulletin board.



SUPER SUNDAY BRUNCH POTLUCK had 45 hungry fans lined up after worship for a variety of foods and fellowship.

With 2 food tables to choose from, I don't think any of the fans had the upcoming game on their mind.

In case you missed the game here was the final score.

29



13

