

Allegan United Methodist Church - APRIL 2026

HEALTH CONCERNS:

Sue Thiel, Noah Hauserman, Piper Sewell, Joyce Brink, Willard Jennings, Emberly DeBruyne, Jim Elmore, June Fullerton, 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 Wrobleski.

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.

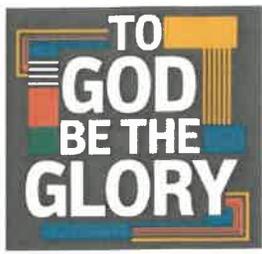


- 11-Michelle Adams
- Aleeka DeBruyne
- Ashley Weaver
- 13-Willain Ruiz
- Allison Wiley
- 16-Marcus Hard
- 17-Tom Giles
- Stone Karle
- 24-George Babcock
- 25-Jeff Gowens
- 26-Tim Borgman
- Cameron Mein



- 17-Mark & JoAnne Giles
- 21-Chris & Patty Anderson
- 23-Nick & Vicki Brower





When our church was looking for a new secretary the last time, God put Lori's name on my heart. Shortly after that I was sitting next to Lori and I told her that God put her name on my heart and I asked her if she had thought about the secretary position?

She got so excited and told me she had been praying about the job the night before. The rest is history, so they say. All too soon she is leaving us to return to South Carolina to join Bill as he has a new job there. Lori has been the sweetest, kindest, efficient, and dedicated secretary as she lives and walks her faith and shares it with everyone. She greets everyone who comes through the door and she gives hugs

out freely. Many of the things she does are not in her job description but from her heart. She sings in the choir and I will miss her voice and how much fun she brings to Emily and I. Sometimes Bill would sit in the back row at choir and just shake his head when we three were laughing. She serves on the Family and Youth Ministry and is always game for planning fun events for our church family. Scheduling the ushers and serving as an usher is another thing she does. So you can see she is going to leave a big hole in our church family and in our hearts. For me she was that trusted presence that I could share what was on my heart with and I will miss that connection we had. We shared our kids and grandkids stories and pictures with each other. As the song says "this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine" and she did! Soon she will "shine" somewhere else and they will be blessed to have her.

Dear God, it's so hard to say goodbye but we thank You for the time we had Lori as she shared herself so openly and enriched our lives. She bases her life on You and everything she does is led by You. May she, Bill, and Sarah find a new church home where they can worship You and share their gifts and graces. Amen.

Blessings my friends, Judy

How well do you know your church building?

1. Where is the defibrillator located if someone needs it?
2. Can you find the choir room?
3. Someone spills a bag of oatmeal, where is the janitor closet?
4. Can you run the elevator?
5. Where would you look for a box of tissues or a roll of toilet paper?



United Women in Faith

--Did you know the UWF has a freezer on the kitchen back porch?

--Did you know the food pantry has two freezers in storeroom off a class room and two storerooms in the basement?

-- Did you know the McKinley closet is a storeroom with walkers, wheelchairs, and other medical equipment to borrow?

--Did you know that you may check out books from the church library?

--Did you know that the bell choir has a practice room in the basement?

--Did you know that besides the designated Scout room, the scouts also used two other Sunday school rooms for activities?



Easter Altar Flowers for Family and Friends

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

David Waanders, Tracy Rininger, Bob Thomas, Jennings Granddaughter Jordan,

Johnson's Parents, Jurkas Parents & Brothers, Sanborn & Munson loved ones, Lee & Doris Adams,

Grace Switzer Husband- Parents- Brother and Sister, Joy Masek, Bill Balgoyen, Marie (Chic) Heckman,

Harold & Gloria Heckman, Ken Milhiem Jr, Eleanor Milhiem, Harry Tibbitts, Andy Branham, Karin Pedersen,

Hanford Brink, Margaret Counterman, Floyd Fales, Ila & Milan Rambadt, Tyarn Rambadt, Leo & Joyce Esch



IN HONOR OF: Jurkas Children & Grandchildren, Switzer family Sonja, Jim and Kaleb



We'd like to say thank you to Tim and Elizabeth Closson for the kind donation of 3 NEW Coffee Carafes. Now we all can truly enjoy hot beverages once again.

Financial Corner – March 2026

This month's report will cover many topics to include Allegan Downtown construction Phase 2, Trustees update and financial update.

Trustees update – as most of you know Bill Austin has taken a job in South Carolina and has moved and is working there now. Lori is still in Allegan and will be leaving once their house in Allegan sells. This now creates an opening for a new Chairman of the Trustees team. There is a meeting scheduled for Tuesday March 24 to hopefully work on the new leadership for the Trustees.

We recently had a Fire Inspection by Certa Cite, our present fire protection company. They reported that the Fire Suppression System for the Stoves in the Kitchen is totally outdated and needs to be replaced. They gave us a quote of a little over \$6,400. I did then go to the Fire Station and talked to Chief Brink. He said that yes, it is outdated and needed to be replaced. This prompted me to contact 2 more companies to come in and look at this system and give us quotes to replace our present system.

Sanctuary Roof – I have contacted Priority Roofing and they will be coming in soon to meet with us to determine what to do about the leak that happened late winter.

Financial Fundraisers - the Finance committee has determined to do three (3) fundraisers this year with a goal of raising \$11,000.

Shoe Drive Fundraiser – (Goal - \$3,000) - The Shoe Fundraiser is running from March 2 – April 30.

We have been collecting shoes from within the Church congregation and the community since just prior to March 2. 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 have received Plastic Bags from “Shoes 2 Orgs”, we put 25 pairs of shoes in a bag and close it up, and we then weigh the bag and record it on a form. We have logged 22 bags so far at a weight of 810 pounds – this about 15% of our goal.

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 have run ads and have hit social media. We have placed collection boxes in multiple local places of business. We now just received permission from Hardings for them to put handbills in customer's groceries about the fundraiser. We are asking for help from the congregation to spread the word!

Ag/Bake Table – (Goal - \$3,000) Starts in June.

Dinner/Silent Auction – (Goal - \$5,000) - Fall of 2026. We will be looking for about 20 items for this event. You can start preparation of items for this event already this Spring. (I have heard that a beautiful Coffee Table has been made for us.)

February 2025 Final Balances:

General Fund = \$11,160- up almost \$3,500 from 2025 year end.

Trustee Fund = \$14,933 - up almost \$500 from 2025 year end.

Food Pantry = \$10,637- down almost \$1,000 from 2025 year end

Memorial Fund = \$7,057 - almost same from 2025 year end,

Mutual Fund = \$129,800 – down almost \$1,000 from 2025 year end

NOTE: \$10,000 was paid back from Trustees account to Mutual Fund in mid-March 2024. This is \$10,000 of the \$20,000 borrowed in 2024 for Sanctuary roof replacement.

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

Phase 2 Allegan Downtown reconstruction – An open meeting for local businesses and the town was held on Thursday March 19th. The meeting opened with the Engineering Company (George Werring of Abonmarche Engineering) explaining what was to be done and the approximate time table associated with it. Milbockers will be the construction company doing the work again this summer.

Phase 1) Trowbridge Street to Chestnut Street – 4/8 – 6/19

Phase 2) Chestnut Street – 4/8 – 6/19

Phase 3) Trowbridge Street to Walnut Street – 6/20 – 9/10

Phase 4) Walnut Street – 6/20 – 9/10

Trowbridge Street by the church to Cedar (M89) will not be in the construction project. This section of Trowbridge will become a 2 way street starting on June 20.

There will be weekly update meetings held at the City Hall on Thursday mornings at 8:00am throughout the construction. We were advised to take pictures of the inside structure and log them in to the City Hall prior to April 8.

AD BOARD REPORTS

March 19, 2026

Scouting- Joan Rininger

At this time Troop 91/191 continues with their 2026 Calendar Plan activities. The troop is being challenged with changes in the leadership roster at this time.

Membership-Joan Rininger and Judy Jennings

As of March 15, 2026, the membership remains at 167 with 54 constituents.

UWF-Cindy Thiele

--We served 30 people for the 1st Lenten meal.

--I will be attending the Lenten tea in Schoolcraft with Chris Thomas.

--I will be attending the Lenten breakfast at Otsego UMC.

SPRC-Judy Jennings and Tim Dickinson

SPRC met on March 17th, continuing our search for a new secretary.

Activities Committee – Amanda Blom

White Elephant Bingo March 15th was a success. We had 38 attendees in total.

Missions- Chris Jurkas-

APRIL 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST: Ministry Shares

Food Pantry-Rod Rambadt & Chris Jurkas

Financial: The pantry currently has \$10,881.07 in the account.

Hungry for Christ: Pancake Breakfast of April 25, 2026 8am-10:30am.

Highlights from quarterly Food Pantry Collaborative:

- Collaborative now serves 19 pantries
- May begins cereal drive-to help feed children during summer
- Pantries are looking for more shelf stables food in summer
- Community Needs-blankets, milk, canned meat, gas cards/transportation needs
- April 28th nest quarterly meeting –MSU Food Safety Class

Donation Request: Saltine Crackers

Food Pantry Assistant: Finishing job duties-will present to Food Pantry Committee for approval.

Ministry Shares

APRIL 2026 MISSION OF THE MONTH & COMMUNION DONATION REQUEST:

“Ministry Shares”



The United Methodist in Michigan gives more than \$9 million each year to mission and ministry.

These gifts known as Ministry Shares are assigned to each church by the Conference as that church's fair share of the combined ministry.

Together they support the work of the United Methodist Church in mission and ministry. They are divided between two large groups of funds: Conference Ministry Shares and General Church Apportionments. These funds are further broken down into the funds under Conference Ministry Shares and seven funds under General Church Apportionments.

Conference Ministry Shares are the funds which 1) provide resources and services to local church and their members and 2) operate the conference. They make up approximately 75% of the Conference Budget. The three funds included in Conference Ministry Shares are: Conference Benevolences, Clergy Support, and Administration.

General Church apportionments make up approximately 25% of the Conference Budget. These are seven funds that Make up the General Church Apportionments: World Service Fund, Africa University Fund, Black College Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, Episcopal Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, and General Administration Fund.

Let's see how much we can donate.



Food and Personal Item Donations

January, February, & March

Harding's Donations:	866
Church Donations:	180
Peanut Butter Drive:	71
GRAND TOTAL	1,117

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- Harding's Market in Allegan
- Weekly- First Congregational Warehouse in Allegan
- Monthly- Hungry for Christ in Hamilton

Financial: The pantry currently has \$10,881.07 in the account

*Hungry for Christ: PANCAKE BREAKFAST is scheduled for April 25th, 8am-10:30am

Donation Request: Saltine Crackers



Church and Parsonage Expenses-February

Income \$20,743.65

102	Immigration Law & Justice Michigan (Jan. POM)	\$	276.00
108-165	Greater Southwest District of the UMC		
110-103	(Change Collection (Dec) and Ministry Shares Dec-Jan)	\$	771.00
300	Michigan Conference Benefits (2 months)	\$	2,021.18
502	Michigan Conference "Health"	\$	2,060.33
602	City of Allegan	\$	61.35
602	Charter Communications	\$	85.00
602	First Communications (New Phone company)	\$	94.67
602	Michigan Gas	\$	752.42
602	Republic Trash Service	\$	101.08
602	Consumers Energy	\$	1,212.34
605	Ivan Busfield (Snow Plow January)	\$	450.00
605	Karen Harvey (Snow Shovel Jan)	\$	136.00
606	Staples (Custodian)	\$	157.39
702	Staples (office supplies)	\$	51.98
705	Hoekstra (Media Computer Sanctuary)	\$	100.00
709	Konica Minolta Premier Finance	\$	236.36
807	Hope Publishing	\$	98.70
903	Julia Humenik (Palm Branch Reimbursement)	\$	54.20
1006	Abingdon Press (Cokesbury)	\$	42.76
	WAGES	\$	8,663.62
	TOTAL CHURCH EXPENSES FOR February	\$	17,426.38

PARSONAGE EXPENSES

603	Consumer Energy	\$	132.52
603	Republic Trash service	\$	50.54
603	Spectrum (Phone, Internet)	\$	100.00
603	Michigan Gas	\$	190.34
	TOTAL PARSONAGE EXPENSES FOR FEBRUARY	\$	473.40
	TOTAL (NON-AUDITED)	\$	17,899.78



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

Only you can make the CHANGE COUNT 😊

FEBRUARY COIN JAR TOTAL: \$20.00

TOTAL FOR THIS YEAR: \$55.00

**WE'RE
HIRING**

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

	4-5 EASTER	4-12 (Holy Humor)	4-19	4-26
Pianist	Ellen Bierlein	Ireland Armintrout	Patty Anderson	Sari Hammon
Liturgist	Sammi Rose	Emily Bucklew	Patricia Huth	Sally Adams
Ushers	Corlee Harris Joan Rininger	Barb Sanborn Chris Thomas	Lori Austin Daryl Waggoner	Tita Balgoyen Chris Jurkas
Music	Choir	TBA	Choir	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



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



SUNDAY Transportation for Jeff

Would you be able to share your Sunday morning ride to Church?

Drivers are needed to pick up Jeff Gowens on Sunday morning before church and give him a ride home. Please speak with BethAnn DeLaet who is currently providing Jeff's Sunday Transportation.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Help clean-up the Church grounds and Parsonage

TUESDAY APRIL 14TH - 4:30-8:00

* Come when you are able to whichever location and please bring your own tools. Thank you. 😊



Share the news with your family and friends.

SHOE FUNDRAISER ENDS 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, Hardings, or bring to Allegan UMC.

TOTAL number of bags of shoes bundled so far- 22bags and the weight of those bags total 810 Lbs.



Our Volunteer Spotlight shines on Bill Austin. Bill moved to Allegan to continue his work with Perrigo and Lori joined him later on. He chose our church to be his church home as did Lori and daughter Sarah. Bill shared his gift of singing as he joined the choir and truly blessed us with his voice. His portrayal of Jesus on Maundy Thursday was so heart-felt. He served as a liturgist, usher, and head of the Board of Trustees. Bill, Lori, and Sarah will be sorely missed but we know that another church will be blessed by their gifts and graces. Bill is already in South Carolina, working, but hopefully he will get back here so we can thank him for all the ways he blessed our lives.



March 29th 9:30am-Palm Sunday Worship
April 2nd 6:00pm-Maundy Thursday Combined Worship
at Hope Lutheran Plainwell

April 3rd 6:00pm-Good Friday Worship Allegan UMC
April 5th 7:15am-Easter Sunrise Worship Front steps to Sanctuary
April 5th 9:30am-Easter Communion Worship



Dinners with Sinners
Is a fellowship opportunity that meets monthly.
Thursday, April 9th at 5:30pm
The Grill House

Please see the signup sheet on the easel 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.



Holy Humor Sunday April 12th.
Wear your FUNNIEST STYLE OF CLOTHING to Sunday worship,
AND LET LAUGHTER AND JOY FILL YOUR HEARTS BECAUSE WE HAVE A SAVIOR WHO LIVES!

WARNING: For the newbies who attend worship at Allegan UMC.
Here is what to expect. Here is last year's JOYOUS WORSHIPERS





“BINGO!” “BINGO!” “BINGO!” Were the shouts coming from the Fellowship Hall on Sunday March 15th as 38 attendees enjoyed the White Elephant Bingo event, with Food and Fellowship.



Our Lenten Meals with small devotional were once again enjoyed this year and well attended. Yummy meals, fellowship, and closing devotional made the Wednesday evenings a good reason to get out of the house. See you next year.

