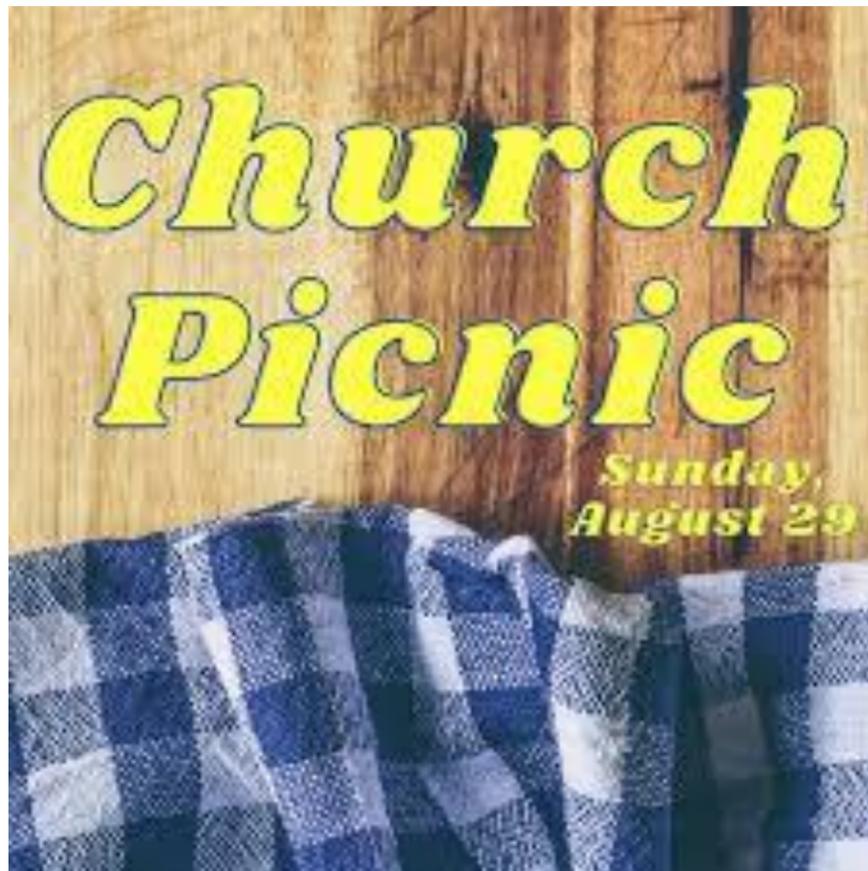
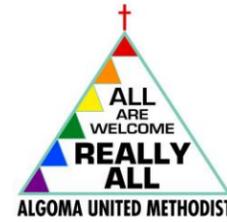


POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to:
Algoma & West Kewaunee UMC
804 Parker Avenue
Algoma, WI 54201



**—Worshiping at
West Kewaunee
on August 29 @
10:00 am**

We are looking forward to hosting a combined worship service on Sunday, August 29th. We will have one worship service only that day at 10am. Anyone who would like to is welcome to bring a picnic dish to share. We look forward to an opportunity to all worship together out-of-doors with music provided by our group that went to canoe camp. All are welcome to this time of celebration. Invite friends, family, neighbors.



Algoma & West Kewaunee United Methodist Churches

804 Parker Ave ~ Algoma, WI 54201 ~ 920-487-2727

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Emert

www.ourdoorsareopentoall.org ~ umcalgoma@gmail.com

We welcome all people... are guided by the teachings and unconditional love of Jesus... are inspired to participate as faithful disciples of Christ.

Mission Statement: To show and teach the love of Jesus Christ to make the world a better place.

Vision Statement: Serving ALL God's creation by celebrating and modeling the love of Jesus.



Hello, Algoma/West Kewaunee UMC Family!

I've been preaching about love since Mother's Day. The more we learn about our nature and our call, the more we see how God has been working within our human history to empower people like us to be the representatives of God's love. Algoma & West Kewaunee UMCs have been faithful to love God and to love our neighbors throughout the years.

Especially during the pandemic, we served the community through the expansion of our backpack program to include summer food for kids & families, offered a town-wide Fourth of July service, and faithfully prayed for our community. On July 5th, we took our middle-schoolers on a church camp canoe trip to grow in our love of each other and God's created world. During August 23-26 we'll serve our neighbors through VBS.

I'm so excited for the VBS this month. It is great that finally we can get together and have VBS at church in person. I hope and pray that as we serve our neighbors, they can build relationships that are meaningful to them and help them build trust. And I pray that we all bring our authentic, vulnerable selves to build trusted relationships with each other.

At the end of August we will celebrate the beginning of a new school year and bless our children with age-appropriate Bibles at our combined worship service followed by picnic at West Kewaunee at 10am on August 29. And then time will move on and we will get closer to Halloween, another opportunity to celebrate with our friends and neighbors. God blesses us with many reasons to party and wonderful people with whom to do so.

I pray whatever party/fellowship/relationship-building opportunities come into your life, you grow in your breadth and depth of your expression of love.

Peace, *Pastor Jennifer*

ARE WE ENTERING THE “OLD NORMAL OR THE NEW NORMAL”?

We have a lot to celebrate living in Kewaunee County. But, Case Activity for COVID-19 has increased again over the last two weeks we have a Case Burden of 34 per 100,000 population. Cases are again rising and nine new cases have been report-ed since 7/16/21. One of the most discouraging bits of news is that we as a county have only 40% of our population fully vaccinated. 51% of adults have gotten at least one dose and 49.6% are fully vaccinated. We owe a huge thank you to those in public health in our area who made that possible, and of course another thank you to those who have gotten vaccinated. Numbers continue to show us that a high level of people being vaccinated has had a significant impact on the decrease in viral activity in an area. There are a number of benefits if you get vaccinated.

COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE!!!

The Kewaunee County Public Health Department is taking appointments for the general public to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at 810 Lincoln Street, Kewaunee. To Make an Appointment Call (920) 388-7160, Mon-Friday from 8AM-4:30PM.

The benefits of getting vaccinated?

- High probability of not getting COVID-19 If you do get COVID, low risk for hospitalization or death.
- You help protect vulnerable people around you.
- The vaccines are SAFE and EFFECTIVE.
- Vaccination is a key step in stopping the pandemic.
- Current vaccines offer protection against all variants of SARS-COV-2.
- Vaccination is a safer and better way to achieve immunity.
- If you are fully vaccinated you no longer need to wear masks or social distance in most settings.

What are the implications of not getting vaccinated?

- You are vulnerable in getting COVID-19, and this is the group now being infected.
- **New variants such as “Delta”** appear to be more highly infective and may cause a more serious infection with a greater risk to require hospitalization and potential death.
- You allow the virus to survive and continue the pandemic.
- To be safe and to help prevent others from being infected, you will need to wear a mask and practice social distancing in public settings.
- If you do get COVID and survive or have few symptoms, your immune response may not be as effective in preventing a recurrent infection as it would be if you were vaccinated.

Our church has now opened again and people are welcome to attend. We want to be as safe as possible. We ask that people who feel sick not attend. We also expect that you wear a mask at this time. We do this for the following reasons:

- Not all people are fully vaccinated or can be vaccinated at this time.
- Some people who are vaccinated may not be capable of mounting a sufficient immune response.
- In the Christian church we believe love your neighbor as you love yourself. Who is your neighbor?

Whoever you encounter, so why would you not act in a way that would put someone’s safety above your own comfort. What discomfort did Jesus experience for our benefit? As Christians we need to think about this and not let something like wearing a mask or not wearing a mask separate us.

Being in Kewaunee County in the summer of 2021 is a wonderful place to be if you think about the old normal or consider the new normal. This is truly nature’s air conditioned wonderland. It is also relatively safe as we move through this pandemic. But we need to be a bit cautious. There are many places in our country where vaccination rates are much less than 50%. There also many countries in the world who are in the midst overwhelming infections with COVID-19. We will not be safe from the potential ill effects of this virus until the world is also safe and that time unfortunately is well into the future. The Delta variant is a reminder of the potential danger that exists. Right now in Kewaunee County we are in a precarious place and the new normal is a whole lot better than where we were before. We need to help each other to be safe. We need to advocate for reaching out to the rest of the world to get the assistance needed to bring this pandemic to an end.

By Faith We Stand Firm: Ministry in the Era of COVID Variants

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation, who consoles us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction with the consolation with which we ourselves are consoled by God. – 2 Corinthians 1:1 (NRSV)

INTRODUCTION

By Faith We Stand Firm is a continuation of the Wisconsin Council of Churches’ ongoing guidance to churches for how to make safer choices during the COVID-19 pandemic. We say safer choices, because no choice is definitively safe. We can only mitigate risk, not eliminate it altogether. This document builds on the recommendations contained in Returning to Church 2.0, released in January 2021 and its successor documents Bearing with One Another in Love and Love Builds Up, released in spring 2021.

We note several circumstances necessitating a more comprehensive update to our guidance:

- A decline in the number of COVID cases almost to the threshold of “Safer” or “Safest” levels in our earlier guidance in early summer, followed by a rapid increase in cases in midsummer due in large part to the delta variant.
- Societal pressure to return to what seems normal and familiar.
- Stagnation in vaccination rates at approximately 50% of the population, with notable disparities by race, age, and other personal characteristics.
- The rapid escalation of the delta variant of COVID to be the predominant strain in Wisconsin, with increased transmissibility and impact upon the unvaccinated, as well as an uptick in breakthrough infections among the vaccinated.
- Significant turnover in clergy leadership due to the stresses of ministry in the time of COVID, including difficulty accessing support from extended family and other communities of care where they are in ministry. A refresher on the fundamentals of ministry safety during COVID for every community is timely. Support and mutual trust is vital if we are to prevent rapid turnover and the exit of even more clergy from ministry in the years to come.

CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. We recommend prioritizing life and health of the vulnerable as a Gospel witness. Concurrent values of this guidance include urgency and care in meeting human needs, and attending to equity and accessibility. Take seriously the church’s role as community leader, and trust in the resilience of the church.

2. Maintain masking expectations FOR ALL PERSONS indoors and when not distanced outdoors until COVID transmission is very low in the community. Although vaccination protects us well against serious illness, breakthrough infections do happen, and viral shed of the delta variant can be as high among the vaccinated as among the unvaccinated. This means universal masking is warranted even among the vaccinated. If your church is gathering for worship outdoors, and you are not providing for distancing, we recommend that you make wearing face masks a standard for all. Being outdoors is not automatically protective against illness if you are in a crowd and are re-breathing the same air others have exhaled.

3. Reinforce your COVID safety protocols in response to the more transmissible COVID variants. Are people wearing face masks properly over nose and mouth? Are singers placed far away from the congregation? Are riskier activities taking place outdoors instead of indoors? Worship leaders may choose to remove their masks when presiding for the sake of accessibility, but we do advise that they wear their mask when they are not actively leading. Remember the benefits of layered mitigations!

4. Case tracking and establishing a No-Go threshold: The CDC maintains a [data tracker by county](#) showing community transmission. If reliable sources show community transmission as “high” or “substantial,” we advise high levels of caution in church gatherings and any activity which might expose vulnerable members to illness. You could also look at the [state DHS tracker](#) and use “high” activity levels to consider a “no-go” threshold. Remember that statistics go in both directions – we have been privileged to experience a decline for many months in Wisconsin, but with the development of more transmissible variants, we are beginning to see increases. At what point will your faith community resume online-only activities, or set a policy of leaders-only in the building? We recommend being proactive and putting a plan in place now rather than having to make and communicate hasty decisions. Our ongoing standard for unsafe/safer/safest gatherings is built on a seven-day rolling average of new cases per 100,000 population, and the rates of positive tests. Our safer threshold for gathering is when cases are less than 5 per 100,000 population and positive tests less than 10%. Safest would be even lower.

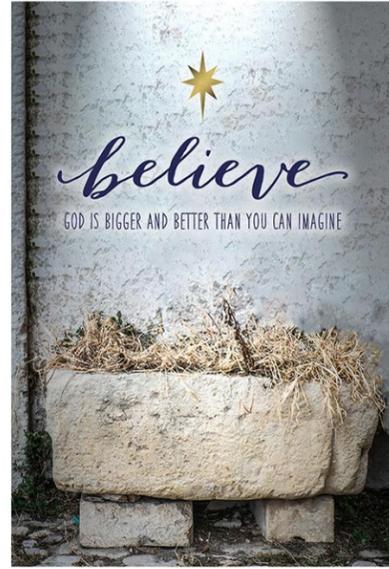
5. Maintain virtual/hybrid gathering options as much as you can. This is a hard-won capacity for many churches; it is worth maintaining. It may be necessary to switch to gathering the community remotely in case of inclement weather, dramatic spikes in viral activity, or future public health crises. In any case, vulnerable people should not be forced to choose between participating in the life of their community and their own safety.

6. Witness to the truth that sets us free (John 8:32). Help debunk misinformation and disinformation about COVID and vaccination. Speak up when segments of the population are scapegoated or bullied as spreaders of illness. Help people come to a sound, informed, faithful decision on matters of importance.

7. Support vaccination efforts. The church has an important role in helping to ensure that everyone who wants to be vaccinated has ready access. Explore how you can work with your congregation, mission and service efforts, and wider community to reach those who have obstacles to vaccination. (See our [full report](#) for theological grounding and how to support vaccination efforts).

8. Plan on event modifications, mitigations and protective behaviors for many months to come. As much as we long for a different truth, the pandemic is far from over.

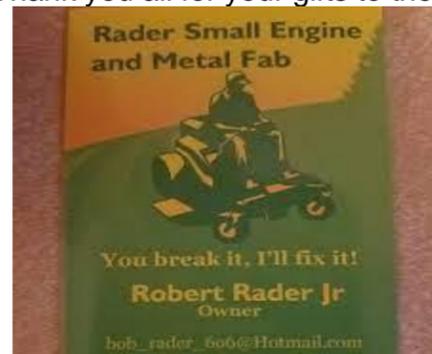
Looking forward to Christmas?



Our Advent journey this year will feature the tale of the man who made the manger and invites you to reflect on why God created *you*.

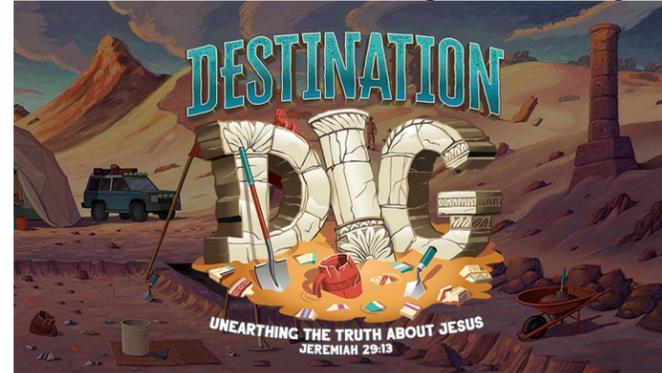
Mowers Are Appreciated!

A big thanks to Robert Rader, Jr., who has kept our grass nice and trim over the last couple of summers. He owns the small engine repair business next door to AUMC and mows our lawn for FREE! We will be thanking him in August. As you can probably tell from the play equipment outside their house, they have small children. You could show your appreciation by making them a plate of cookies or buying them a box of popsicles or making a card or using your own creativity to show that you are thankful for his work. Tokens of appreciation can be delivered directly to their house or bring them to church and Pastor Jennifer will make sure they get there. Thank you all for your gifts to the church.



Family News

Children and Family Ministry



DESTINATION DIG VBS

Pack your bags and grab your gear, VBS 2021 is headed to present-day Israel where an epic adventure of discovery awaits. Discover amazing finds and exciting evidence that proves biblical events were not just stories. They really happened! At Destination Dig, we will unearth more than just dirt. We'll discover real-life archaeological finds that have helped to uncover the truth about Jesus. Join the fun at Algoma UMC August 23-26, 9am-noon. People of all ages are invited! We are looking for volunteers to help staff this event. Many thanks in advance to the loving and dedicated individuals who will step up to help!

We are in need of:

- 1) Music Leader
- 2) Mission Leader
- 3) Recreation Leader
- 4) Craft Leader
- 5) Publicity Leader
- 6) Snack Leader
- 7) Technology Leader
- 8) Prayer. Ask God to prepare the hearts of participants and volunteers who will be a part of VBS.

We think we can have it inside safely, but will be outdoors as weather permits. We are planning to do this for our entire church family, with no age restrictions. Masks are expected to be worn by all. Contact Pastor Jennifer with questions/comments or to register, 262-331-0469 or via e-mail.



Beginner-Level Exercise Program for Older Adults

10-Week Program

Group Exercise + Lifestyle Class

Exercise 60 minutes Mondays, Tuesdays,
& Thursdays + 30-minute lifestyle class
after exercise on Tuesday

**10 Weeks of Follow-Up Sessions with
Free Consultations**

Have Fun and Get Healthier

**A Successful Program Based on the
Latest Research**

Sign up today, *free* for all seniors!

LOCATION

Algoma Youth Center

620 Lake Street

Algoma, WI 54201

TIME

Starts **August 23rd!** Through **October 28th**
Mondays (8:30-9:30am), Tuesdays (8:30-10:15am), & Thursdays (8:30-9:30am)

COST

Free for all seniors!

TO REGISTER

Contact **Jessica DePas** at **920-388-7160**

Please join us if...

- 1) You are over the age of 60 and
- 2) You exercise less than 60 minutes each week



Looking for Musicians

In an effort to keep us singing and praising the Lord musically, we are looking for musicians! We are so thankful to Ms. Jennifer Massey for bringing students to perform at AUMC the first three Sundays in June and to Maggie Riemer for stepping up to play first at West Kewaunee and now at both locations through the summer. She will have to return to school though in the fall and so we seek others to make that beautiful music for worship. Maybe, just maybe, you will be so inspired by the Holy Spirit that you will just HAVE to try something new! (If that is the case, contact Pastor Jennifer.) Or, God may put someone in front of you who seems like a possibility. Don't be afraid to think outside of the box and look at people in new ways.

We would love to be able to put together a choir willing to work together to provide music by December. If you enjoy singing, this is for you! Previous experience or training are not required.



Love. Grow. Serve.

MISSIONS: Mission of the Month Pastor's Discretionary Fund You may be wondering what the Pastor's Discretionary. It is a fund where, as the pastor, I can go to provide financial assistance to those experiencing some financial crisis. While their use is at my discretion, I have sought out advice of others before using the funds when they are larger in amount. However, the identity of the person being helped is known only to me. Because of the limited amount of funds available, in my time here these grants have been in amounts less than \$100, and most commonly have been around \$50 for such things as assistance in paying rent or utilities, medical bills, car repair, and car maintenance.

With the long-term financial effects of the pandemic still unknown we may see a growing need for such funds in the months and even years to come. For example, the moratorium on paying rent and mortgages for those unable to do so because of loss of employment during the pandemic ended in July. There may be folks in our church or community for whom this will mean needed help as they try to become current in back rent. We simply do not know.

In general, when someone has approached the church for assistance, I make sure there are not other resources available in the community that could meet their need before dipping into church funds. Money is never given directly to the individual – for example I met a pregnant mother at the DMV and paid them directly for her license plate renewal. For all who come to the church seeking help, and regardless of a connection to the church, we retain a few prepaid cards for groceries in the office. These are small in value 20 or 25 dollars and are just to help someone with an immediate need.

We would like to build this fund up so that we are well positioned to be able to help should there be a greater need in these next several months as we come out of the time of pandemic.

Community Dinner:



Algoma UMC will be supporting the Chamber of Commerce's Concerts in the Park on Thursday, August 19th, 6:30-8:00 pm at Heritage Park, 512 Lake St.

The Menu:

- ❖ August 19th –
 - Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

Free-will donations will be accepted. If you are able to help, please contact the church (487-2727) with when and how you can help.

We need your help!

Friday Fun:

Who: All Kids & Adults!

What: games, crafts, a bible story, and a snack!

Where: outside, in-person (with masks) in the Algoma UMC parking lot by the outdoor grass space.

When: from 5-6:30pm on August 20th.

**PLANT, RAKE, TRIM,
& WEED TOGETHER!**
**Join your friends and
neighbors!**
**AUMC 3 OUTDOOR
WORKDAYS**

- **SATURDAY, OCT 2 8:00AM**
Very important time to do winter prep for survivability.

Algoma/West Kewaunee



We are pleased to be able to look forward to worshipping together for the remainder of the summer, at 8:30am at West Kewaunee, at 10:15am at Algoma, and virtually anytime after.

Sunday, August 1:

A Service of Holy Communion

Sermon: What is "Call"?

Scripture: Hebrews 11:8-13 & John 14:15-21

Traditions in Church: Bob Lohrey

Sunday, August 8:

Sermon: Call to Ministry

Scripture: Philippians 2:6-7 & John 15:16

Traditions in Church: Volunteer Appreciated

Sunday, August 15:

Shanty Days Community Worship Service at Heritage Park at 7:00am & WK at 8:30am.

No service at AUMC.

Sermon: What Is Discernment?

Scripture: Isaiah 52:15 & 1 John 4:1

Traditions in Church: Volunteer Appreciated

Sunday, August 22:

Sermon:

What Conditions Help Discern God's Call?

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:11-13 & John 8:31-32

Traditions in Church: Volunteer Appreciated

Sunday, August 29:

One Service only at West Kewaunee at 10am with picnic to follow.

Music provided by group that went to camp.

Bibles will be distributed to students

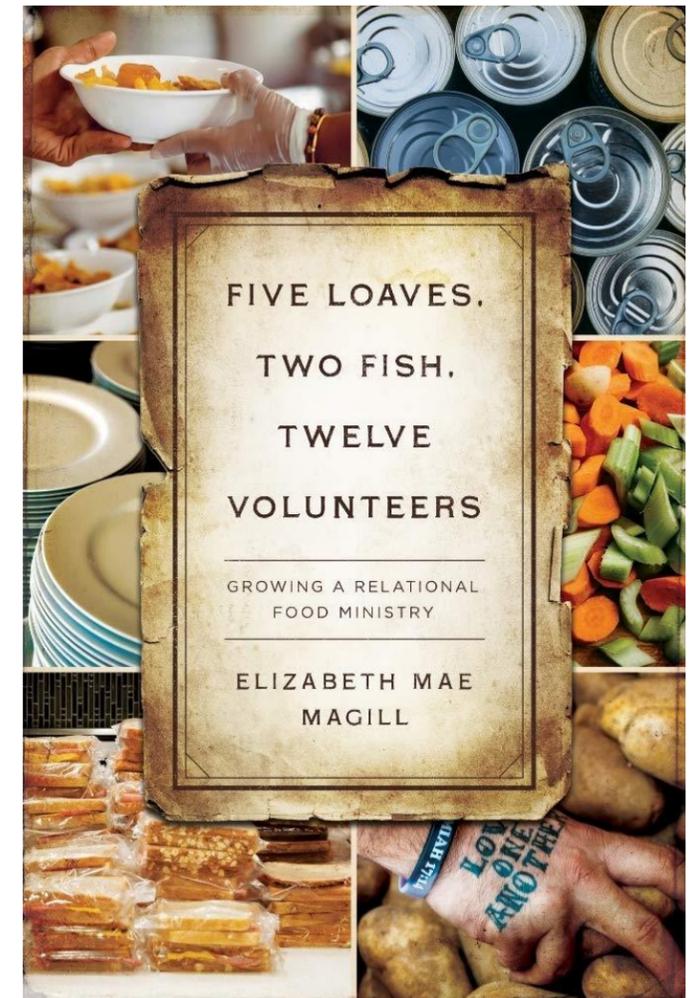
during worship.

Sermon: Is It God We Are Hearing?

Scripture: Isaiah 58:9-11 & Matthew 7:16

Traditions in Church: Volunteer Appreciated

TRANSFORM THE WAY WE DO MINISTRY.



Would you like to be involved with the food ministry in our church? Would you like our ministry to be more relational than transactional? Through storytelling and practical tips and tools, we invite you to transform our food ministry to offer radical hospitality and empower others to serve and be served.

JOIN US WEDNESDAYS

Beginning September 29, 2021

Visit Bookstore.UpperRoom.org if you'd

like to order a copy or contact Pastor

Jennifer for an electronic copy.