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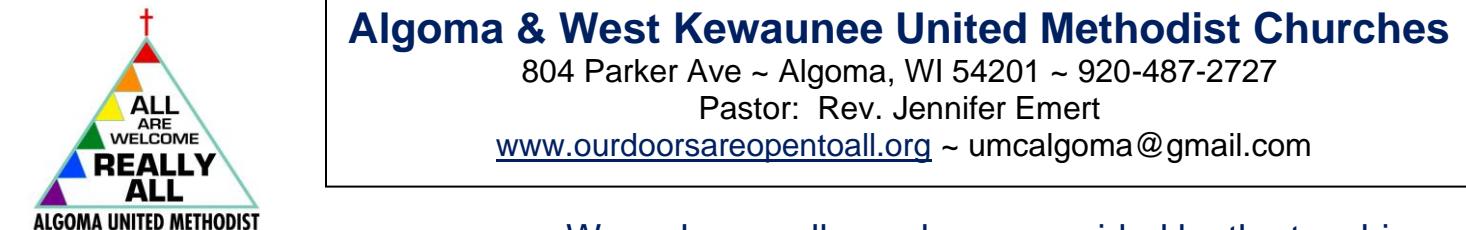
**Algoma & West Kewaunee UMC**

804 Parker Avenue

Algoma, WI 54201



## January Newsletter



**Algoma & West Kewaunee United Methodist Churches**

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

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Emert

[www.ourdoorsareopentoall.org](http://www.ourdoorsareopentoall.org) ~ [umcalgoma@gmail.com](mailto:umcalgoma@gmail.com)

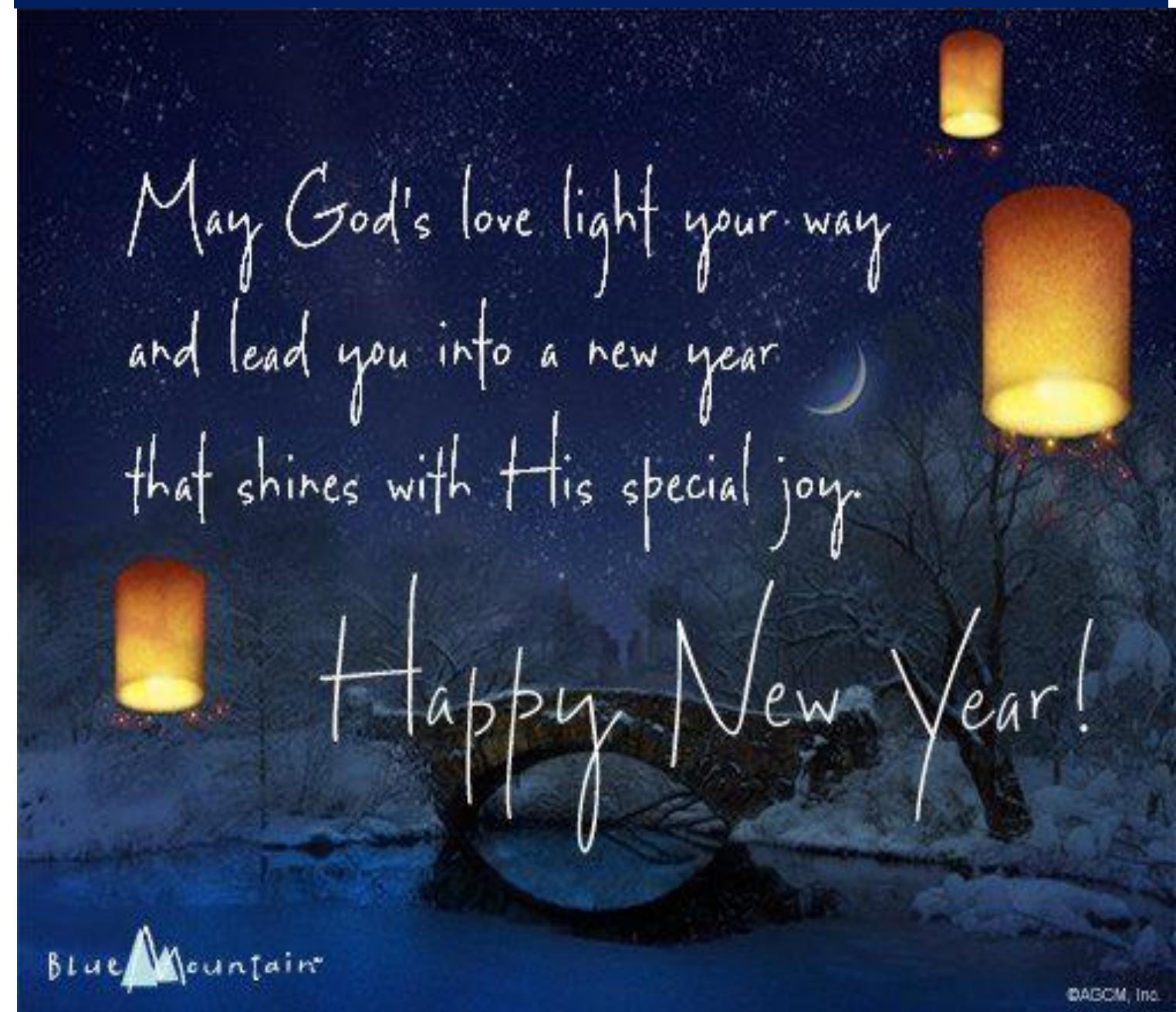
We welcome all people... are guided by the teachings  
and unconditional love of Jesus... are inspired to participate as faithful disciples of Christ.

**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.

January 2022 -

*Have a Blessed New Year!*





# A Call to Grace

Delegates and church leaders urge The United Methodist Church to “A Call to Grace.”

A wide coalition is urging The United Methodist Church to live out its values of grace and reconciliation by allowing congregations the option to exit the denomination now—something that can be achieved at the local level and is not dependent on General Conference legislation. “A Call to Grace,” released Nov 1, 2021, includes signatures from a broad array of rank-and-file church members, General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates, denominational leaders, and many in the Reconciling movement.

The postponement of General Conference has been a disappointment for many, but a “love your neighbor” approach to COVID-19 safety remains a priority. While still undecided, the conference scheduled for August 2022 is at risk due to health concerns and world-wide travel restrictions. “A Call to Grace” offers an alternative option that overcomes the continued and unavoidable delays. Read more at: <https://www.acalltograce.com/press-release>

It appears likely that the General Conference scheduled for August-September 2022 may be postponed again as COVID-19 continues to spread globally and many continue to suffer from inequitable distribution of vaccines.

Waiting on General Conference legislative solutions is no longer the only way forward. Continued delay in making decisions about the future of The United Methodist Church hurts our mission and is especially harmful to our LGBTQIA+ siblings who are caught up in this conflict.

Now is the time to focus on strategies for a gracious exit that can be enacted at the annual conference, central conference, and jurisdictional levels. We call on bishops, conference leaders, and all United Methodists to join us in this effort. [Paraphrased from “A Call to Grace”]

[https://www.acalltograce.com/?mc\\_cid=0dc1ef0fe&mc\\_eid=2dc4860238](https://www.acalltograce.com/?mc_cid=0dc1ef0fe&mc_eid=2dc4860238)

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/group-seeks-bishops-grace-in-church-exits>

## Bishops offer framework for inclusive church

During its November 2-5 online meeting, the Council of Bishops approved “A Narrative for the Continuing United Methodist Church,” outlining a vision for the church where all will have a home. Hear from six bishops in a four-minute video message, including these words from Bishop LaTrelle Easterling of the UMC Baltimore-Washington Conference:

“We cannot transform the world if we have not been transformed by the renewing of our lives. An ethos of exclusion is not of God. The beloved community loves all, welcomes all, and serves all. That is the future of the United Methodist Church.”

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishops-offer-framework-for-inclusive-church>

## Algoma UMC ~ Ad Council Minutes ~ December 16, 2021 6pm

Attendees: Maggie Templeton, Tammy Massart, Jodi Parins, Matt Templeton, Jennifer Emert, Ann Schmitz, Deb Blegen(via Zoom), Andrew Hooker, Starlyn Salemi, Bob Lohery, Rita Lohery, Bernadette Bellin(via zoom)

Opening Devotion: Jodi opened devotion & prayer

Approve Oct. Minutes: **Ann motioned, Rita 2<sup>nd</sup> approval of Oct minutes. All in favored**

Trustee Update-Ann

- Final Bills for furnace = \$20,174.00.
- Windows will be caulked at later time (spring 2022). **Matt to confirm contract/agreement with Buhr**
- Renovation of bathroom almost complete, Light switch to be moved closer to door, outside wall to be painted, and old door to be removed. **Matt to purchase new motion sensor paper towel holder.** Pastor to put up paper sign directing people around corner to new entry.

SPRC/Pastor's update-

- Vacation time and coverage – Pastor out Dec 24 – Jan 23) **Julie will pick up church mail. Tammy will cover church phones, Jodi will cover church emails. No worship Dec 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Jan 2-Jodi will preach, Jan 9-- Tammy will preach, Jan 16- retired pastor Jane Sommers will preach. (Payment of \$200.00) and cover pastoral care Jan 3 – Jan 18. Laura Reimer will be available for emergency pastoral care Weeks of Dec 26 and Jan 19. . Ronnie will provide worship leadership for Tammy and Jane.**
- With Tammy and Deb co-chairing SPRC, Jodi asked for a regular update at Council meetings.

Finance

- Andrew reviewed with board members November reports
  - Negative balance indication that Furnace bill paid and needs to have funds transferred to coverage.
  - **Andrew will issue withdrawal request \$20,000 for invoice of new furnace and windows.**
  - **Andrew will request \$17,000.00 from building fund, and the balance from Capital Improvement Endowment Fund.**
  - Andrew requested transfer of \$12,000 (10 for General and 2 for New Ministries end of Oct as requested)
- **Andrew will put together “year end” giving letter to include and highlight the following items: purchase of new furnace, larger backpack program, The Joy Project, Mill/Steele habitat program, renovated, ADA compliant bathroom, 70 pds of venison provided by Kenny Riemer and Julie making meals from donated meat, vegetables and other donations. Andrew will provide a separate giving letter for Dick & Roberta Gale.**
- Reviewed 2022 budget
  - Julie Bloor increase will be effective Jan 1, 2022
  - **Board will revisit and request additional funding in March 2022 from Algoma school for backpack ministry.**
  - Apportionment down
  - Expenses are in line – cutting where we can, nothing frivolous
  - Deficit of \$47,536 to come from Foundation funds
  - **Ann motion, Matt 2<sup>nd</sup> , all favored to approve 2022 budget**
  - **Andrew will submit approved 2022 budget to pastor/conference**

• Old Business

- Andrew still looking into how to use the 4 un-used Tablets
- Matt checked with owner at Mill/Steele for ideas what homeowner can help with on Phase 3. On Saturdays they can assist with ramp construction. Matt suggested cleaning of debris and Jodi suggested painting/staining the ramp +6 months after install.
- Maggie will check on the status of the grant through Live Algoma and report back next meeting
- Taskforce for Grace In Action rehab projects will be Matt, Andrew, Maggie, Tammy

• New Business

- Deb Blegen brought up the idea of the “Hunger Sack” program. This program consist of specified bags of groceries on display at Denny’s that can be purchased by the community for the backpack program. **Star will investigate.**
- Julie asked (via Pastor) if we could provide Amanda with a Christmas token
  - **Jodi motioned, Ann seconded all Approved**
  - **\$25 Chamber Check for Amanda**
  - **\$100 Chamber Check for Julie**
  - **Star will obtain and deliver to Pastor**

Next Meeting February 3rd at 6pm, Closing Prayer by Pastor Jennifer Emert

# Our Church Family On the Journey With You

Happy and blessed New Year! I will be taking some time off at the beginning of this year, but will be back soon. In the meantime, we are blessed to have worship opportunities that have been developed by our leaders on SPRC. While I am gone, anything you want to e-mail the church (prayer requests, questions, needs), should go to the [umcalgoma@gmail.com](mailto:umcalgoma@gmail.com) address. Jodi will be in charge of monitoring that and responding appropriately. The church phones will be forwarded to Tammy's cell phone this month. So if you need support from the church, please do continue to call the church number. Tammy is equipped to lend her heart and problem-solving skills. We love you and want you to be spiritually fed.

One of the hymns of the season is "In the Bleak Mid-Winter." This year it has taken on new meaning to me as this pandemic, the death of my father, and family challenges have caused bleakness. Read a few verses of this meaningful poem written by Christina Rossetti:

In the bleak mid-winter  
Frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.  
Our God, heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain,  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.  
What can I give Him, Poor as I am? —  
If I were a Shepherd I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, —  
Yet what I can I give Him, — Give my heart.

When we are faced with bleakness, for whatever reason, we are still able to give our hearts to God: for healing, restoration, commitment, refreshment, and for God to grow us closer to the perfection we were created for. Give God your heart in this new year, and see what God does with it! ~ Pastor Jennifer

## Worship in January

Out of an abundance of caution and care and wanting to do no harm, we encourage you to choose the format of worship that best meets your need to be safe and healthy as this pandemic continues to evolve. Thanks for being flexible and keeping worship a priority.

During January we will continue to worship at West Kewaunee every Sunday morning at 8:30am and at Algoma at 10:15am. The service can be watched online any time after 10:15 am Sunday morning, but we encourage as many of us as possible to worship together as a community of faith. Please make worship a soul destination.

**Sunday, January 2**—AUMC Council Chair Jodi Parins will be preaching. Her sermon is called *Even God Made Resolutions*, which will reflect on Jeremiah 31:31-34 and the Gospel Lesson of Mark 12:38-44.

**Sunday, January 9**—Tammy Massart, Algoma's Lay Leader, will preach, "A Father's Love", with scripture from Ephesians 3:18-19.

**Sunday, January 16**—Human Relations Sunday. Retired pastor Rev. Jane Sommers will provide the sermon, original worship resources, and special music.

**Sunday, January 23**—The sermon title is "Driven by Vision." We will reflect on what God has for us next and our purpose.

**Sunday, January 30**—TBD

**January Mission** – UM Human Relations Day will be observed in worship on January 16, 2022. Your generous gift supports the Community Developers Program and community advocacy through United Methodist Voluntary Services, related to the General Board of Global Ministries, and at-risk teens through the Youth Offender Rehabilitation program, General Board of Church and Society. Gifts may be made at church or by visiting [www.umcgiving.org/giveHRD](http://www.umcgiving.org/giveHRD)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT**

**Dinner's on Us!  
There will be NO  
Wolf Den dinner  
while Pastor is gone  
but there will be one  
on January 26<sup>th</sup>**

### Menu:

Ham and Bean Casserole  
Cornbread  
Cole Slaw  
Oreo pudding dessert

West Kewaunee continues to collect toiletry items for the Lakeshore Community Food Pantry. Soap, shampoo, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, etc. can be brought the last Sunday of every month.

### MUSIC AT ALGOMA UMC PRESENTS THE CONTRATTO EXPERIENCE



**Sunday, April 10, 2022**

Led by retired Music Director, John Contratto, Palm Sunday at Algoma UMC will be a time of triumphal exuberance as we celebrate together. Join us at 10:15am on Palm Sunday!

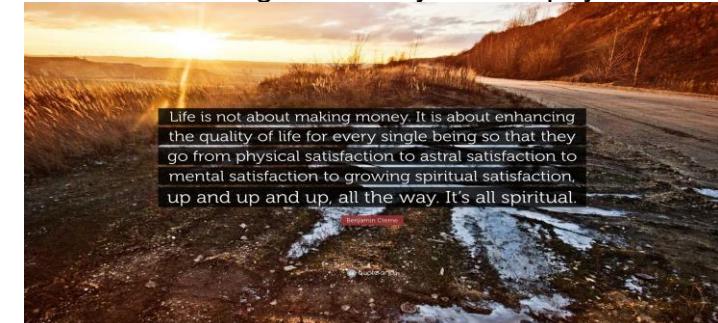
## Coming in January...

### I'll Start Again Monday

Break the Cycle of Unhealthy Habits with Lasting Spiritual Satisfaction We will be equipping people with the deeper spiritual and emotional motivation they need to make lasting changes.

**IT'S MONDAY.  
I'M ALIVE.  
I'M BREATHIN'.  
I'M LIVIN'.  
I'M BLESSED.  
LIFE IS GOOD.**

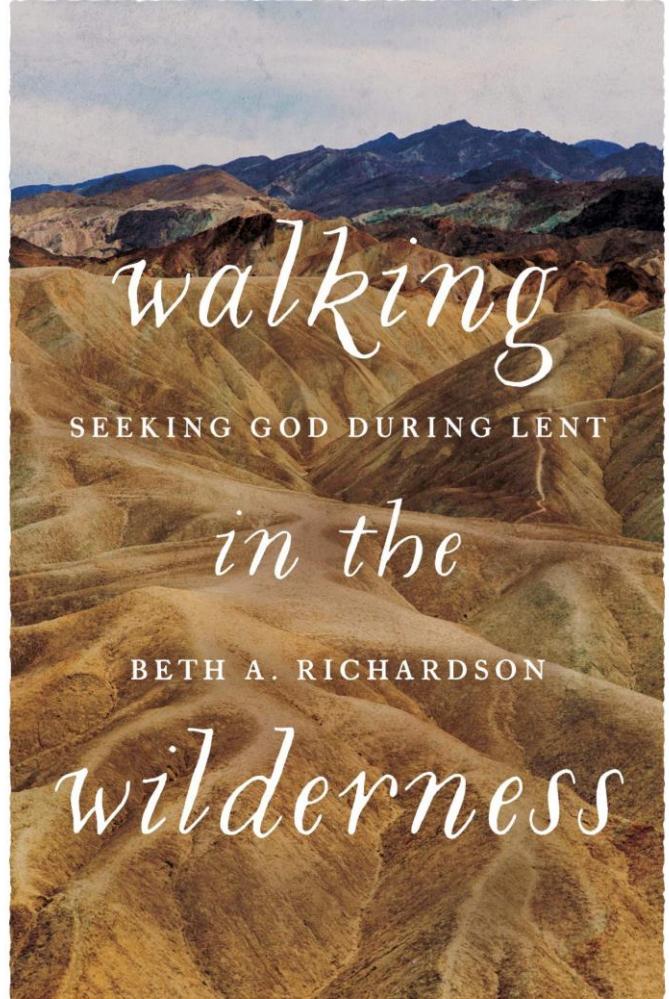
So often we characterize our cravings as bad or guilt-inducing. But craving isn't a bad thing. The reality is we were made to crave. We just need to realize God created us to crave more of Him instead of misplacing that craving by overindulging in physical pleasures and unhealthy habits that will always disappoint. You are invited to find the missing link between our desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment to make that happen. This series can be used alongside whatever healthy lifestyle plan you choose that will help you find your "want to" and lead to a spiritual satisfaction that goes far beyond the physical.



## MOVING TOWARDS EASTER

We are living in a time of wilderness and exile. People of faith are struggling these days as they watch unbelievable events unfold.

During the 40 days of Lent, God calls us to examine ourselves, repent, and make room in our lives for the Holy One.



With daily insightful reflections for Ash Wednesday through Easter, the book is a perfect companion for your journey through Lent.

You can order a copy by visiting [UpperRoom.org/store](http://UpperRoom.org/store).

## Want to be an UMC Musician?

All groups, children through adults, are welcome to use their musical talents at church.

**We would love to have you—now is the time.**

If you're a veteran musician or a new beginner, we have places for you at West Kewaunee, Algoma, and virtually.

Contact Pastor at [umcalgoma@gmail.com](mailto:umcalgoma@gmail.com)

## OUTREACH AND MISSIONS TEAM

Thank you to everyone who helped put together Christmas gifts for our 36 backpack kids! Thank you to everyone who helped make a family in need's house dryer and safer for the winter! Thank you for the way you helped honor our homebound by preparing Thanksgiving and Christmas meals for delivery! Thank you for the way you helped harvest treasures from Pastor Al's house to be given to Afghan refugees! Thank you for all the things you have done to love your neighbor in the midst of an ongoing pandemic, because this is certainly not an exhaustive list... WOW!! Let us give thanks for these opportunities as we look ahead to what He has in store for 2022.

The Christ child we are celebrating in this Christmas and Epiphany season came into this world as part of God's plan to bring hope to a hurting world. As Christians, together at A/WKUMC, your gifts of time and talent continue to bring that message today. May God bless you with abundant joy this season and may He be your shining Light in 2022!

Praising God in all with you today and always!

## The Church Office will be Closed

Our pastor's office will be closed Monday, December 27th through Saturday, January 22nd for the Christmas Holiday and yearly vacation.

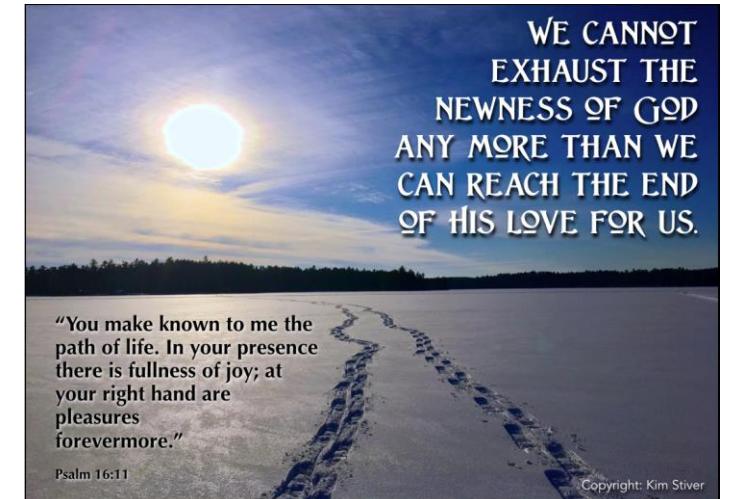
Pastor will see you back January 23rd! Messages will be checked for emergencies.



## Julie's List of Backpack Ideas

Julie is constantly in conversation with the those getting food—here's some of what she's learned:

1. Mac and cheese gets boring fast.
2. Milk is a treasure as kids need it for cereal.
3. It's hard to eat all the canned veggies and soup that come from food pantries. If you don't want to eat it, assume no one else would want to.
4. Cheese is a much appreciated luxury.
5. Surplus garden vegetables are a real gift.
6. Meat makes them feel like you care.
7. Some kids need nonperishable snacks for school.
8. Seeds are cool in Spring and Summer because growing is easy for some.
9. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
10. We go through lots of peanut butter and sandwich bread.
11. Cake mix and frosting make it possible to make a child's birthday cake.
12. Dishwashing detergent is always appreciated.
13. Women cry over feminine hygiene products!
14. Everybody loves the fresh eggs!



## BLOWN BY GOD TOWARD NEWNESS

The news is that God's wind is blowing, it may be a breeze that cools and comforts. It may be a gust that summons you to notice. It may be a storm that blows you where you have never been before. Whatever the wind is in your life, pay attention to it . . . and the blessing of God—Father, Son, and Spirit—will abide with you always. Written by Walter Brueggemann, *Prayers for a Privileged People*, Abingdon Press Nashville ©2008, pg. 183.

## GREETERS SCHEDULE FIRST QUARTER 2022

1-2—	
1-9—	Lin & Ronni
1-16—	Lin & Ronni
1-23—	
1-30—	
2-6—	
2-13—	
2-20—	
2-27—	
3-6—	
3-13—	
3-20—	
3-27—	

It's time to get back into the discipline of scheduling greeters for worship so that we can make sure every single person is welcomed with unconditional love and hospitality. We invite you to sign up to help with this ministry, one Sunday at a time. We would be thrilled to offer training to anyone who wants some tips and pointers!

We are in need of donations of cards (birthday, anniversary, sympathy, thinking-of-you, get well, etc.) and volunteers to be part of a church card ministry. Please drop off any donations at the church and let Pastor know if you would be willing to send out cards periodically to people who could use a lift. We would like to thank everyone who is called to this ministry.



**Encourage Our Hearts this Spring!**

Our worship and study this spring will feature various Bible passages that help us see our service as a joyful response to the grace of God for His blessings.

**Thank You for  
Serving  
with the Joy of  
Jesus!**

