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Algoma & West Kewaunee UMC
804 Parker Avenue
Algoma, WI 54201



January/February Newsletter



Please contact the church office at umcalgoma@gmail.com with your email address if you would like to receive an online copy of this newsletter (or with your mailing address for a paper copy).
Thank you.

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.

Dear Friends—

The Jesus of Epiphany and the Christ of Faith

Once again, we are entering the New Year and Epiphany season with great expectations of joy from family, friends, and neighbors. There is the usual sentimentality and nostalgia for the New Year, with singing about “may old acquaintance be forgot...”. Yes, we will make New Year’s resolutions and have brightly lit stars celebrating Epiphany as we sing the last of our well-known Christmas Carols. And, of course, we will clean up our Christmas decorations.

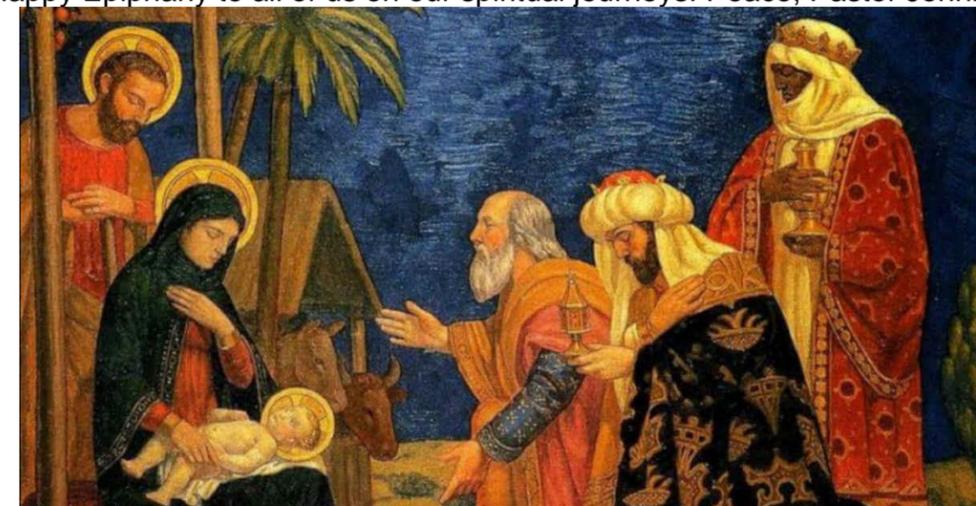
But let me suggest to you that Epiphany has another and more profound side. It symbolizes the infant beginnings of a journey from innocence to radical faithfulness! This child of miracles and wonder will become a refugee before he can even walk or talk! His parents will gather him up and flee to a foreign country as a wave of death envelopes their comfortable homeland and political fear and jealousy drive the Roman rulers to a frenzy of fear and death.

May I remind us all that in this Epiphany season we have not moved the needle of human compassion very far at all. Our world is filled with blind political ambition (Russia/Ukraine), religious intransigence (Iran), hunger and starvation (much of Africa), and potential nuclear madness (North Korea, etc.). In addition, most of our local lives are being acted out under deep personal concerns for our health, economy, and the ravages of planetary change that our children and grandchildren will face.

But, let’s take a second look at the world of the infant Jesus: he overcame! He overcame religious enmity and division; he overcame fear of sickness and death; he overcame self-centeredness and apathy; he overcame self-righteousness and prejudice! He overcame!!

As Christians, we too will overcome the naivete and the blindness caused by sentiment and trinkets. We, as we mature and become more Christ-like, will learn the beautiful truth of loving God and our neighbors as deeply as God has loved and guided us. Yes, friends, here is the real meaning of Epiphany and it’s beloved infant: that “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should have everlasting life” and live out it’s abundant Joy and Hope!

Happy Epiphany to all of us on our spiritual journeys! Peace, Pastor Jennifer



Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas celebrations special!



Ministry Team

2023 Church Leadership

OFFICERS OF ALGOMA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Chairperson of Council..... Jodi Parins, 366-5029
 Lay Leader..... Tammy Massart, 495-1988
 Recording Secretary..... Star Salemi, 360-2568
 Trustees Chair..... Ann Schmitz, 255-0343

Board of Trustees: Pastor, **Chairperson** Ann Schmitz

2023: Matt Templeton 262-331-0153;
2024: Jordan Ames, 370-6847;
2025: Roy Smith, 883-5034 and Bob Berkley, 314-456-6488

Finance Chair..... Andrew Hooker, 471-7417
 Financial Secretary..... Bernadette Bellin, 837-7610
 Joy Project Coordinators..... Marla Paape, 487-3768 & Rita Lohrey, 255-2236
 Men's Breakfast Coordinator..... Bob Lohrey, 255-1046
 Youth Representative..... Maggie Emert-Templeton, 304-9977
 Delegate to Annual Conference..... Jodi Parins, 366-5029

Nominations Committee: Pastor, Jodi Parins, Tammy Massart

Staff-Parish Relations:

Co-Chairs: Debra Blegen & Tammy Massart, Lay Leader

2023: Debra Blegen, 715-370-6060 & Lora Malcore, 845-5558
2024: Sarah Demmin, 388-0436 & Tammy Massart, 495-1988
2025: Clark Riemer, 388-3469 & Sue Sandstrom, 847-636-7931

OFFICERS OF WEST KEWAUNEE U M CHURCH

Council Chair..... Lisa Koerner, 362-9505
 Trustees Chair..... Matt Demmin, 388-0436

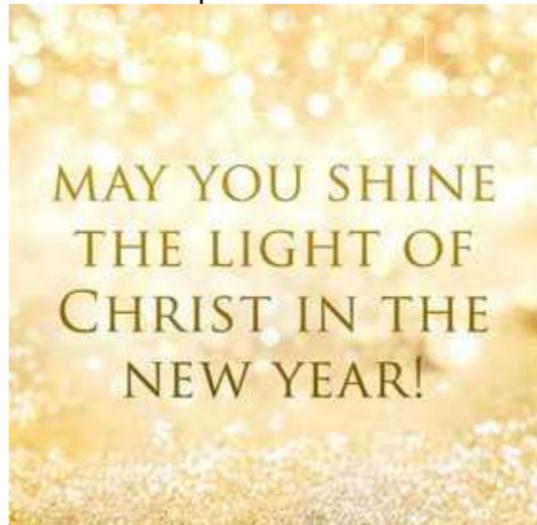
Board of Trustees: Pastor, **Chairperson** Matt Demmin

2023: Matt Templeton, 262-331-0153
2024: Rob Malcore, 639-1507
2025: Jerrod Jossart, 264-4005

Finance Chair..... Lorraine Riemer, 485-2882
 Financial Secretary..... Dorothy Genz, 388-3028
 Treasurer Marissa Jossart, 621-4164
 Nominations Committee: Pastor, Lisa Koerner, Sarah Demmin

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SERVICES

- January 1st 8:30 AM at West Kewaunee & 10:15 AM New Year's Day Wesleyan Covenant Service
- January 8th Epiphany Celebration
- January 15th Pastor Kent Ingram preaching at both locations – “Come and See”
- January 22nd Pastor Kent Ingram peaching at both locations – “Immediately”
- January 29th Jodi & Tammy leading worship at Algoma only at 9am.
- February 5th DS Park Hunter preaching, celebrating communion, and leading conversation on future ministry possibilities at both locations. The District Superintendent wants us to think about our future – our vision – what do we see where we are in 5 years, and 10 years.
- February 12th Pastor Jennifer back – normal worship at both locations.



We need YOU to Deliver Wolf Den Dinner Wednesdays, January 11, 18, 25 February 1, 8

The dinners are prepared by Julie and available for pick up in the AUMC kitchen by 4pm. Then you deliver food to the Elementary School, spend some time hanging out with the kids, serve, pack up and are done by 5pm. This is a one hour commitment. Please commit by **Monday, 1/9 at noon. We are making a difference in the lives of these kids!**

Living Our Faith in Community

During this time of year when the days are shorter and darkness engulfs us, many will become sad and depressed. Many have suffered losses, try to overdo, become frustrated, endure family squabbles, are homeless, care for sick friends or family members, or need to quarantine again. As we know, unpleasant things are always with us. So how do we help ourselves?

Prayers, meditations, and affirmations are needed each day of the year to nurture your Spirit. How else can you help nurture your Spirit? Let in light; gaze at the sun reflecting off the snow; go out on a crisp, cold dark night and gaze at the stars, the Milky Way, and the moon; reflect and think. Walk outside. Become mindful.

Learning to be mindful can be a very important technique to help with stress, anxiety, & depression. Your ups and downs will improve and lead you to a better mood. Being mindful can also help with sleep, improve relationships and concentration, and increase your energy. It can also improve your immune function, lower your blood pressure and heart rate, and increase your ability to deal with illness. It has been found to increase self-compassion and self-control.

The key to being mindful is to be present, in the moment focusing on thoughts, emotions, and physical sensations. One becomes more aware, rather than reacting to a situation or choices. Guided imagery is also used as a form of mindfulness, & learning breathing techniques helps to dispel anxiety. Belly breathing (also known as diaphragmatic breathing or box breathing) is a technique that you can use.

As we begin the New Year, many of us make resolutions involving food. Just be mindful of what your body can tell you to protect yourself from overeating. To do this, engage all your senses such as food colors, smells, and tastes; take one plateful only; savor small bites and thoroughly chew; put down your fork between bites; and when you are 80% full, quit.

Changing habits and forming new ones can be daunting. Prayer can help guide us and assist us in making and implementing our choices for better health, but we must take actions to achieve it. Identifying a stressor in your life and deciding to take action to remedy it can lead to better health. Faith and healthy lifestyles combine to help us toward wholeness.

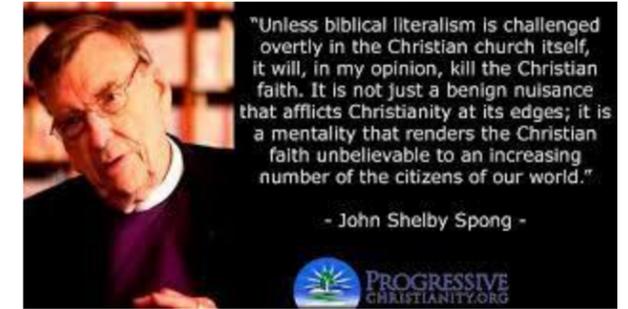
Bishops Elected and Appointed in North Central Jurisdiction

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung will remain Bishop in the Wisconsin Annual Conference for at least another year before he retires, but change is afoot. At our recent 2022 North Central Jurisdictional Conference there was much discussion about moving in 2024 to having Northern Illinois and Wisconsin share a Bishop. And appointed to serve as the new Bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference beginning January 1, 2023 is Wisconsin's own Dan Schwerin. These changes can lower the cost of ministry in both Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

The North Central Jurisdiction's Episcopacy Committee is responsible for assigning bishops—a process that begins immediately after all bishops are elected. The committee includes two people from each annual conference. The announcement of the assignments of all nine bishops was made on Saturday morning at the end of the consecration service for the three new bishops. Their assignments take effect on January 1, 2023. Bishops are normally assigned for a four-year term, but this will be a shortened assignment, as the Jurisdictional Conference is scheduled to meet in its regular sequence following the General Conference in July 2024 to elect and assign bishops for the 2024-2028 quadrennium.

Here is the complete list of assignments for January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024:

- Dakotas-Minnesota Conferences: Bishop Lanette Plambeck
- East Ohio Conference: Bishop Tracy Smith Malone
- Illinois-Great Rivers Conference: Bishop Frank Beard
- Indiana Conference: Bishop Julius C. Trimble
- Iowa Conference: Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
- Michigan Conference: Bishop David Bard
- Northern Illinois Conference: Bishop Dan Schwerin
- West Ohio Conference: Bishop Gregory Vaughn Palmer
- Wisconsin Conference: Bishop HeeSoo Jung



Unbelievable discussion

We will take January and February off from Bible study and resume our discussion of the book “Unbelievable” in March. This book seeks to examine the basics of the Christian faith through a series of readings and discussions. It is an opportunity to explore the meaning of life together. The following are the topics we will discuss together.

I'll offer this course on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. I'm thankful to all those who enthusiastically began this journey together this fall.

I invite you to be part of this discussion group. With your presence, our discussion will be wider and our conversation will be deepened.

1. **March 1** – When Miracles Entered the Bible
2. **March 8** – The Miracles in the Moses/Joshua Story
3. **March 15** – Elijah and Elisha – Miracles Explained & The Miracles of Jesus
4. **March 22** – Messiah Miracles – The Final Clue
5. **March 29** – Renouncing “Jesus Died for My Sins” & Incomplete – Not Fallen

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

On Sunday, January 8 we will take down the outdoor Nativity scene followed by a meal provided by Julie Bloor and have an afternoon of board games. Join us in beating those winter blues with an afternoon of fun. This event is for all ages and seniors are strongly encouraged to participate. If you need a ride to the church, we would be happy to provide transportation.

"FAITH is a baby who brings love, light and life...
HOPE in His promise of everlasting peace...
LOVE in the embrace of family and friends."

May these: FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE, be yours
throughout the New Year!

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three;
and the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

Wishing everyone peace, love, joy, and good
health! Happy New Year!



Earlier this month, I learned about a new app called GetGreen. Its mission is to inspire change toward an equitable and sustainable future. It is a pilot project developed by Emerald Technology Group, PBC, and touted as a sustainability solution in your pocket. It gamifies behavior modification incentives while it tracks progress towards monthly and other goals. In addition, using it teaches you about new sustainable products and actions you can take. According to Ecolibrium3, "GetGreen is a mobile app that helps individuals make an impact on the climate crisis." The app will aid individual and collective action by providing sustainable options and alternatives to everyday tasks to create a daily habit of climate stewardship. It works like a digital journal. Take an action and record it on the app—you earn at least one green leaf, sometimes several. And your smartphone lightly chimes with animated images of leaves dropping. To learn more, visit <https://www.getgreen.eco/>

Personal Hygiene Drive

Bring items for Food Pantry Donations to church to celebrate the Epiphany season. Do a little shopping for people who live with much less. Collection boxes are in the Sanctuary at West Kewaunee and Algoma. Items needed: bandages/BandAids, toilet paper, toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, body wash, warm winter socks, waterproof hats and gloves, hand warmers, blankets, and towels.

Church Family

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Methodist Churches



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Meal Minister: Julie Bloor
Next newsletter deadline: February 20
Submit to: umcalgoma@gmail.com

Fat Tuesday Celebration

On Tuesday, February 21, from 4-6pm, we will have our annual potato pancake dinner via drive-through (with possible indoor seating depending on how contagious everyone is then) serving the following items:

- Potato Pancakes
- Pork Sausages
- Apple Sauce
- Sour Cream
- Joy & Peace!

The serving will take about two hours. It is of interest to members and friends of the congregation. Everyone should invite someone! And members have the opportunity to help prepare earlier in the day.

Get involved in helping by emailing the church:
umcalgoma@gmail.com

Emergency Contacts

While Pastor Jennifer is gone, reach out to:

Meal Ministry Coordinator Julie Bloor 664-2832

AUMC Phone (answered by Tammy) 487-2727

Church E-mail (monitored by Jodi)
umcalgoma@gmail.com

These folks will answer your questions and tend to your needs. They are able to reach out to clergy for emergency pastoral care if needed. Also continue to check Facebook for updates.

Martin Luther King Weekend Activities



Join the Brown County MLK Celebration Committee virtually or in person at NWTC on Saturday, January 14, 2023 from 10:30am to noon. This event is FREE and open to the public. More information available on <https://www.browncomlk.org/index.html> will be coming on duluthnaacp.org or by calling 920-498-6997.



Our Church Family Guests Serving Our Congregation

Rev. Kent Ingram

Will provide emergency pastoral care from January 14-22, 2023 and pulpit supply on January 15 and 22.

Rev. Joe Mitchell

Will provide emergency pastoral care January 10-13 and January 23 – February 10.

Rev. Park Hunter

Will provide pulpit supply on February 5. We give thanks for these beloved ones of God. We will thank them as we entrust them to offer us God's loving care.

DO YOU WANT TO HELP ... people suffering from pancreatic cancer? Bob Berkley's son passed away from this horrible cancer on Wednesday, November 16.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network hosts an annual fund-raising walk, with events around the country.

We invite you to participate either by collecting contributions or joining us for the walk (or both!). PurpleStride is the number one way they raise funds to end pancreatic cancer.

The money we would raise would go towards ground-breaking research and programs that provide free, personalized support to patients, families, and caregivers.

Participating can make you feel empowered, hopeful, excited, and proud.

It's an amazing feeling to work together against a challenge like pancreatic cancer.

Patients and their families need you on their side and PurpleStride is the perfect way to show your dedication to ending the world's toughest cancer. And don't forget to get your family and friends involved!

The friends and family of our Bob Berkley will join the army of Cancer Crusaders across the US on Apr. 29, seeking contributions for the fight against cancer, and reminding the public of the need of regular health checkups.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND OR ILL

Ray Eicher mourning Colleen's graduation to heaven; Michelle struggling with depression; Julie's daughter Ellie with long haul Covid; Heather recovering from surgery; Bernadette's friend Shirley Jensen; Ann's daughter Holly undergoing chemo; Jane's son Christopher recovering from a heart transplant; Jane's relative Emma; Bob Riemer & Lorraine with cancer; Bob Berkeley's family mourning Kent; Jack & Cynthia; Ukraine; Donna Kaye; Dorothy; Lin Sherman; Tammy & Isabelle; Marion's family mourning her passing; Linda with a bone infection; Cora with breast cancer.

Upper Room

Large print versions of the January-February issue are now available at church. We have enough for you and for a friend.