

Algoma & West Kewaunee UMC

804 Parker Avenue
Algoma, WI 54201



Return Service Requested



Get your souls to the polls in this sacred season of voting!

Voting is an act of FAITH * HOPE * LOVE.

Your vote is your voice, don't give it up!

PRAY. THINK. VOTE.



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.

November 2020

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.*

Church Brothers and Sisters –

Greetings!

Spiritual Seasons

As we move get closer to the winter of 2020 (can 2021 come fast enough?) it would be helpful to focus a little on what spiritual life-changes come as we age and change. Here are some thoughts I would share with you out of my own experience.

Spring

Growing up is one of life's most arduous adventures. We do not really have a mature spiritual life, but we begin to make sense of the world and learn our part in it. There is discovery, pain, our first taste of love and our first taste of loss. We know that life is bigger than our personal world and we begin to suspect that we have a purpose and destination. God is known to us through Biblical stories and songs. We get a brief glimpse of "awe."

Summer

Our faith life begins to flourish as we discover an ancient world of truth and we formulate our own values and ethics. This is a beautiful time of deep prayer and reflection on the wonder of creation and the possibilities of our own families, friends and, yes, even adversaries. God to us becomes personal for the first time and we start to realize that we, too, are a miracle and incredibly special "gift" to the world around us.

Fall

Like the many colors of our changing forests and the skies above us, fall is a time of spiritual richness and rebirth. We, the students, become the teachers for those struggling with the sophomore issues of Summer. We begin to know from first-hand experience that our summers were both joyful and dangerous. God is as certain to us as the falling leaves and we know from experience that death and rebirth are the ancient and eternal rhythms of all life.

Winter

Our spirits grow to full maturity with the awareness that our journeys on earth will not go on forever. We face our inevitable end with some satisfaction and a relative sense of relief. God and a guiding spirit have been with us throughout our lives and we have no question that this will be true to our last breath. The winter of our spirits is a time of certainty – God's love has not and will not ever fail us. Fear is not in our future, but hope very much is. God be with us till we meet again!

Be warm! Be Safe! God Bless!

Pastor Jennifer

Prayers

Prayers for Edith Honnef and family on the death of Don. Edith is now in a nursing home and does not have a phone.

Prayers for Sue Sandstrom on the death of her husband Marty. This month Sue is in Algoma. She can be reached at 847-636-7931.

Prayers also for the family of Cass Wells. Cass passed away on September 19 in Sturgeon Bay.

Marissa and her husband, Jerrod Jossart will be welcoming their first child into the world in November. You may send gifts and congratulations to 836 Ralph St., Luxemburg, WI 54217. They are registered at Target.



Algoma/West Kewaunee UMCs are set up for online giving. You can connect securely with our account at Vanco Payment Solutions. This company is the one that we have used for years for ACH giving. Look for the "Interested in Donating to Our Efforts?" button on the bottom of the main page of our website (www.ourdoorsareopentoall.org) or download the GivePlus App for a smartphone.

Readers Needed

We are looking for people who are willing to read Scripture or the Call to Worship in our weekly worship service. Those who participate in worship via Zoom would do their reading live during the Zoom service. If you watch on Facebook or the church website, you can record the reading yourself and send it to church, or come in to the church on a Tuesday morning and we can record you, or you can have someone come to your home and record you (outdoors). Please let Pastor Jennifer know if you are interested. It will be a big help!

Kids' Worship—on Wednesdays



Help the kids in your family get set up on Zoom to virtually attend our Kids' service on Wednesday evenings, beginning at 6:30pm. We have had eight Kids' services so far on Zoom, where they use their smart devices to connect. There is the spiritual food of music, games, message, prayers, and socially-distant fun for all ages. The services have been well-attended and appreciated, so we intend to continue offering them each week. They are designed to be 30 minutes, and we are looking forward to some special themes.

- Wednesday, November 18, 6:30pm—Thanksgiving Theme
- Wednesday, December 16, 6:30pm—Christmas Theme

November, 2020

We Gather Together...

- Consecration Sunday*
- All Saints Sunday*
- Music every week*
- Thanksgiving Service*
- Caring for others*
- Generous donations*
- Scholarships*
- Inspiration*
- A welcoming and loving Church Family*



For Our Faith, Health, & Community

It's That Time!

Getting a flu vaccine is more important than ever during 2020-2021 to protect yourself, your family and your community from flu. The Kewaunee County Public Health Department is currently offering influenza vaccine for adults. Please call the Health Department at 920-388-7160 to schedule an appointment. The cost of the vaccine is \$30.00 or we can bill Medicare Part B, UnitedHealthcare Network and Humana Insurances. Please have your insurance cards with you.

November is not too late to get that flu vaccine, especially this year as we cope with COVID-19. Flu season can go as late as May. Ask your provider which flu vaccine would be the best for you and your children. Those of you over 65 should be getting the high-dose vaccine which is stronger. There are some contraindications to taking this form, so ask your provider.



GET A FLU VACCINE NOW.
WWW.CDC.GOV/FLU

We must be even more diligent as we enter this winter's flu season. It's reported that 5-20% of adults will contract the flu. So what can we do to help prevent the flu? It goes without saying: get rest. A cool bedroom is helpful because it can help to increase melatonin, which can induce sleep. During the day, the sun suppresses melatonin and increases cortisol, which helps to

prevent inflammation. So get outside while you can. Continue to wear your masks! If you have a cloth mask, remember to wash them each day if you've been out shopping, working, etc.

Decreasing stress is also important, as the more stress you experience the less active your immune system is. Exercise, yoga, and meditation all are preventative measures you can take. The CDC website has information on exercises and other activities that would be beneficial. Pick up the phone or face chat with friends and family. It may be a good time, too, to reactivate letter writing or journaling. Humidification in your house, schools, or places of work will help the airborne viruses "go to ground" as the viruses join the droplets of water in the air, and therefore will decrease the risk of contracting flu. However, you must remember that flu can live up to eight hours on surfaces, which means hand washing for at least 20 seconds is very important. Washing the fronts and backs of your hands as well as your fingernails is equally important. Do not touch your face. If you can't wash, use that sanitizer that you keep in your car, your purse, or your backpack. It's very important to sanitize what you touch.

If you feel sick, stay home. Flu is contagious from the day before symptoms appear up to ten days post symptoms. Flu symptoms can include severe headaches, aches and pains (enough that you don't want to get out of bed), fatigue, cough, fever, and sore throat. These symptoms can also be indicative of COVID-19, so it's important to contact your provider and discuss your symptoms, as you may need a test to see what you have contracted.

Just remember to take time for yourselves, practice distancing, wear your masks, wash your hands, and practice prayer and meditation—all can help us get through this time.

Tuesdays @ 6:45pm - online Bible Study, Led by Pastor Jennifer. The title of the study is: "Jesus, His Powerful Life" and is based on the Gospel according to Mark. We are only two weeks into the seven-part study, so join us! We will take November 24 off for Thanksgiving and run through December 8. All are welcome!



Social Justice & Prayer Every Wednesday at 7:00 pm

Join us for a weekly bible study at 7:00pm on Wednesday evenings through November 18th. This month we will be concluding "Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation" and then moving on to "A Strange Freedom: The Best of Howard Thurman on Religious Experience and Public Life" on November 18th to guide our discussion of scripture and how it can apply to our lives. Gatherings via Zoom. All are welcome! Contact: Pastor Jennifer for more information.

Zoom
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81844047435?pwd=eEl0RTBhc0dlYUZvSkhpbjRmU0xhZz09>

All Saints is a day of remembrance for the saints, with the New Testament meaning of all Christian people of every time and place. We celebrate the communion of saints as we remember the dead, both of the Church universal and of our local congregations. As a community of faith, we will celebrate all of the following lives on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1 during our regular worship service on Zoom at 9:15am. Please be in prayer about ways you can contribute to celebrating these beautiful lives.

Marjorie Synhorst, Joe Walag, Ginny Briggs, Al Groll, Ellen McKenna, Jane Kuhn, Brock Kleindl, Jim Schneider, Betty Pies, Marty Sandstrom, Cass Wells, Laura McMillan, Don Honnef.

Briggs Scholarship 2020

In the 1980s, a much younger Rev. Al Briggs served as Algoma & West Kewaunee UMCs pastor. To continue his work of leadership development and faith formation, a scholarship fund was developed. Subsequent contributions have helped to sustain the fund and have allowed for the presentation of many scholarships that have helped people advance their ministry. The Briggs Scholarship for the second half of 2020 will be \$208.48. The criteria for qualifying as an applicant are: • Be a member of Algoma or West Kewaunee United Methodist Church • Have been active in the life of the church • Be pursuing some kind of ministry or lay leadership . Application forms will be available on the church's website November 1, 2020 under the tab "Our Mission & Ministries". They will need to be fully completed and turned in by 1pm on Monday, November 30. Applicants have two options for submitting materials: 1) print all materials and submit in hard-copy form to the church office, 804 Parker Avenue, Algoma, WI 54201; or 2) compile all materials (including completed application form, and a link to the proposed training session – for ideas of educational opportunities visit <https://www.wisconsinumc.org/upcoming-trainings>) into a single electronic file and send it to the church (umcalgoma@gmail.com) All applications will be considered! The Scholarships will be awarded during the worship service on January 3, 2021.



Monday, November 2 @ 6pm via Zoom. All are welcome to participate in this annual meeting.

MISSIONS-

SPRC met on Tuesday, October 13 and discussed and approved the hiring of Julie Bloor as our new Food Ministry Coordinator. Julie began volunteering in August, doing a huge amount of work first with our summer meal program, then helped transition us to the school-year Weekend Backpack Program, and has shopped and cooked for our Monday Wolf Den dinners.

There are 13 families with a total of 50 people (mostly kids) that receive food on a weekly basis through the Weekend Backpack Program. COVID has given us the opportunity to communicate with families and hear about their concerns and needs.

Monday Wolf Den dinners feed a total of 20 people, a combination of grade school kids (Pups – the mentees) and high school kids (Wolves – the mentors). Due to COVID restrictions, only Pastor Jennifer is allowed to be a part of delivering these meals. However, we were able to include church members in hosting a socially-distanced Halloween Trick or Treating event in the school parking lot for the Wolf Den since COVID-19 drove the city to discourage a community Trick or Treat. Wolf Den serves kids who face a variety of challenges that need a lot of extra support.

We offer thanks to everyone who has donated apples, pears, tomatoes, corn, and purchased food for the children we are feeding! In November we will be supplying turkeys and other Thanksgiving fixings to our 13 Backpack families. Please let Pastor Jennifer know if you would like to donate a turkey or any other traditional Thanksgiving ingredients. For December, we would love to hear your ideas for blessing these families at Christmas!

We are also blessed to announce that a memorial given in honor of Al Groll was designated as a Pastor's Discretionary Fund by the donor. Now when requests are received by people in acute situations of need we have funds available to be supportive.

UNSTUCK CHURCH:

COVID does not have our church stuck! In fact, it has helped us get unstuck, looking at new ways of doing ministry that truly live out our faith and allow us to serve God's people at their point of need. At Charge Conference on November 2 at 6pm we will nominate the following leaders to do the challenging work of the church in 2021. We thank them for their bravery in stepping forward and for being committed to learning together:

Algoma UMC

Council Chair	Jodi Parins
Lay Leader	Tammy Massart
Recording Secretary	Star Salemi
Trustees Chair	Ann Schmitz
Trustees	Matt Templeton, Jordan Ames
Finance chair	Andrew Hooker
Financial secretary	Bernadette Bellin
Joy Project Coordinators	Bob & Rita Lohrey
Youth Representative	Maggie Emert-Templeton

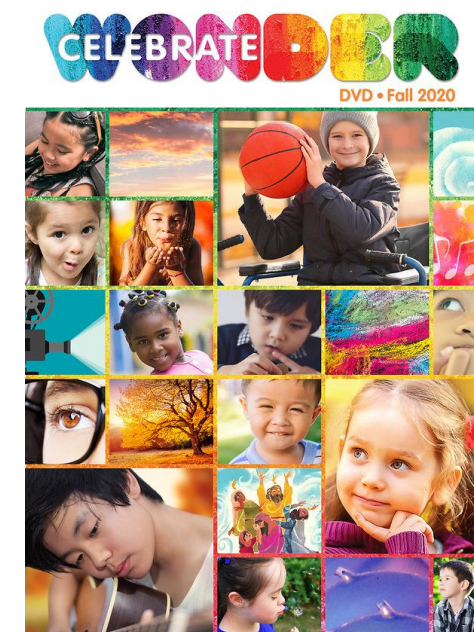
SPRC

Jim Erickson, Debra Blegen, Tammy Massart, Clark Riemer, Sarah Demmin, Kathy Jadin

West Kewaunee

Council Chair	Helen Ward
Trustees Chair	Bob Riemer
Trustees:	
Matt Demmin, Matt Templeton, Jerrod Jossart	
Finance chair	Lorraine Riemer
Financial secretary	Dorothy Genz
Treasurer	Marissa Jossart

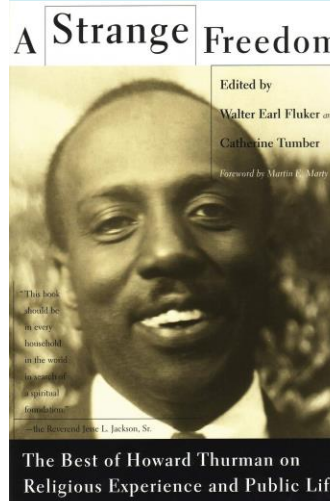
2020-2021 Children's Curriculum



We will honor the spiritual life of children – their natural sense of wonder, imagination, and curiosity – and help shape their growing faith this school year, utilizing Zoom if necessary. Kids will connect with their Creator and invite God's presence into their daily lives.

Fall Semester
2020
Wednesday
Study Group

This Fall Semester 2020 the Algoma/WK Churches Wednesday Study Group will be reading "A Strange Freedom: The Best of Howard Thurman on Religious Experience and Public Life" after we read "Be the Bridge: Pursuing God's Heart for Racial Reconciliation". We will be meeting by Zoom. Both books are available on yardstickalgoma.com or at your local library.



Meetings this Fall Semester will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.

Dates of Book Group Meetings:
"Be The Bridge" now through November 11.
"A Strange Freedom" will begin on November 18.

2021 WORSHIP

Our church cares about your health!

With COVID cases rising, we take seriously our Bishop's recommendation to not have in-building worship through the end of the year. But that does not necessarily mean we will be able to resume in-building worship immediately once 2021 beings. We do believe the **future is as bright as the promises of God**, but know that we have to follow health recommendations. We are still together in spirit, even while apart.

Church Gardens

Thank you to everyone who contributed in some way to our church gardens this year. There were a lot of extra hours spent enjoying our church grounds this year due to socially-distanced COVID safe outdoor activities. The cold weather has set in now, and we are already looking forward to next year.

The gardens have been winterized and are resting until spring. But 18 houseplants are thriving in the windows of the Algoma sanctuary. You are invited to come sit in the sanctuary and enjoy them anytime you want - they bring a promise of summer through the long dark winter.

We ask that no one waters the houseplants. They are watered and trimmed on a schedule by our fantastic volunteer, Julie Bloor. Enjoy them as you watch them grow and think spring!



Ready for Adventure in Summer 2021?
Summer Church Mission Trip
A trip of a life time!
Let's Stay Safe,
Build Community,
Foster Growth, and Have Fun.

Amazing things happen when small groups venture into the wilderness together. We can go on a wilderness adventure trip next summer, taking up to 10 people ages 11+. They have COVID-safe ways to run the adventure programs, so no matter what next summer brings we can make firm plans. These trips are powerful experiences for youth and adults. Learn more and register now by talking to Pastor Jennifer

We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing

What do you have to have for it to feel like Thanksgiving? I asked my friends this, expecting to get answers like turkey and cranberries. Mashed potatoes are my have-to-have Thanksgiving food. One friend has to have pumpkin pie. The majority of people I polled said they have to have family, and our gatherings will likely be limited in size this year due to COVID. One friend said she has to have so much food on the table that it definitely looks like a feast.

This Thanksgiving, look at ways we can be less wasteful and more respectful to the plenty that God has given us. When decorating, use a cloth tablecloth and napkins, as well as real plates. Since our gatherings are likely to be smaller this year, that washing dishes will be less of a burden. Remember the old days of washing dishes with family members? Some of the best conversations took place while washing and drying the dishes.

Presentation is everything. I love a pretty table and food attractively displayed. See if you can do that without producing any waste like Styrofoam, paper plates, or plastic utensils. Many of us have special pieces that have been in the family for years, but we seldom bother to use. Maybe since we won't have the usual crowd gathered together we can use a pretty tablecloth or placemats, cook some food, and then take photos of our beautiful table with a harvest theme tablecloth or decorations to send to those who can't be with us. We can send our love when we send the pictures of the food on the pretty dishes.

So think ahead: How much leftover food do you want? How much waste do you want to generate? What can you do to be kind to the Earth? Think about where your food is sourced. Compost food you can't eat, and avoid using one-time-use plastic.

And one other thing I have to have for it to feel like Thanksgiving? Turkey races (it's a very loud, home-made game that involves a lot of gobbling!). ~Pastor Jennifer

Music Notes

There Is Joy to Be Shared Through Music!

WK/AUMC Worship Music

Our worship music is off to a good start this fall, with screen-sharing pre-recorded music on Zoom making wonderful contributions to our worship services. There are still opportunities for you to share your musical gifts. Please contact Pastor Jennifer if you are interested in being part of WK/AUMC's music program.



Our **Music Director**, John Contratto also welcomes anyone who might be interested in sharing with us for the Advent and Christmas season. You can record yourself, or come to the church anytime in November or December so we can record you. If you have ever considered sharing your musical gift, this might be a good opportunity to give it a try.

Mark Your Calendars... Christmas Is Coming!

- Church Friends Christmas Carols— Saturday, December 5, 7pm via Zoom Kick off the holiday season with an evening of festive, seasonal music.
- Christmas Carillon Presentation— Sunday, December 20, 10:00am We will conclude our normal 9:15 worship service with 15 minutes of carillon music with video of the setting up of our outdoor nativity.
- Lessons and Carols Service— Thursday, December 24, 7pm worship service The story of Christ's birth will be told through Scripture readings and music offered by WK/AUMC's Members, Algoma HS Musicians, and a variety of instrumentalists.