

Take care
— OF —
Each other

...and **“Love One Another”**

by Dr. J. Ellsworth Kalas, Adult Bible Studies, Spring 2015 (sections)

“Since there is only one word for ‘love’ in the English language, the word includes so much that sometimes we are not sure what it means. Bumper stickers substitute a heart symbol for the word itself, but the problem remains. ‘I love New York’, ‘I love chocolate’, ‘I love my Pekingese’. I do not mean to disparage any of these affections, but I submit that it is hard to know what content to put into the word love when we use it so freely and casually.

“A proper understanding of love is important for everyone but especially for Christians, because love is a key word in the Bible. Jesus said that love sums up God’s commandments: Love God, and love our neighbors. That is, the Bible teaches us that love is not simply a word; it is a way of life.

“Methodism teaches that true Christian living is a life of perfect love. This means that all of our relationships, to God and to others, should come from love and should convey love. This should be true not only in our conduct but also in our words and thoughts. The goal, then, is to live a life of unconditional love.

“The first Letter of John was written at a time when there was division in the body to which it was written...A major issue in the letter is the differing beliefs about the nature of true Christian love. John wrote, “This is the message that you heard from the beginning: love each other” (1John 3:11). Not only was this the message from the beginning, Jesus had given a new definition of love as he talked with his disciples during the hours before his arrest, trial, and crucifixion. The new definition of love was “love each other just as I have loved you” (John 15:12). What kind of love would that be? “No one has greater love than to give up one’s life for one’s friends” (John 15:13).

...”Do I give my life (or my hours) out of love for others or because of the attention my work brings or the praise I receive? The apostle Paul said that it was possible we could even give our bodies in sacrifice yet do so without loving (1 Corinthians 13:3).

“This is a hard call. We should not judge the motives of others, and we should be sensitive in examining our own motives. Thus John tells us that we should ‘reassure ourselves in God’s presence. Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things’ (1 John 3:19-20). God is the only dependable judge in matters of the heart. On the one hand, we should be wise enough not to be overly impressed with our deeds of service. However, on the other hand, we should be wise enough to be sensitive to our daily opportunities to lay down a moment, an hour, or a day in love for someone, including, at times, those who are not naturally appealing to us. It is a matter of the heart.

What is your best opportunity to lay down your life for another person?

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship

TANUM FOREST

Sunday, November 21, 2021

5:00 Drive-In &

7:00pm Sanctuary

Join us at:

Tanum Forest

Evangelical Lutheran
Church

6102 County Road OO
Sturgeon Bay, WI
54235

Pastor Peter Mannoja

EVERYONE IS INVITED!

Algoma United Methodist
Bay View
Corpus Christi
Crossroads
First Baptist
Friends Community Church
Hainesville
Holy Name of Mary
Hope United Church of Christ
Prince of Peace
Saint Peter-Saint Paul
Saint Joseph's
Saint Peter's
Salem
Shepherd of the Bay
Sturgeon Bay Community
Sturgeon Bay Methodist
Sturgeon Bay Moravian Church



Church Family

Algoma & West Kewaunee
United Methodist Churches

804 Parker Avenue, Algoma, WI 54201

920-487-2727 umcalgoma@gmail.com

Pastor: Jennifer Emert

Food Minister: Julie Bloor

Next Church Newsletter deadline: **November 23**

Submit to umcalgoma@gmail.com

www.ourdoorsareopentoall.org

Adult Forums

Adult Forums will continue on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. It will be a 45-minute experience available through Zoom so everyone will have an opportunity to participate. If you would like to lead a forum or invite a speaker, please let Pastor Jennifer know so we can schedule and advertise it. Rev. Krysta Deede is scheduled to lead the Forum on November 3. She's been involved in the resettlement of Afghan refugees that were sent to Fort McCoy and will have up-to-date impressions of the immigration situation to share.



Backpack Program Christmas Gift Collection

It is time again to think of those children in need at Christmas. Every backpack we send home is a tool for evangelism and discipleship around our community. Christmas Wishes will be available in the front lobby along with a donation box for individual gift items for the children or money donations if you prefer us to do the shopping for you. Julie will be collecting Christmas Wishes from backpack families the week of November 15-20, 2021. Once we have those we will make them available to you. Thank you for your generosity!



Steps to Justice

As United Methodists, "We affirm the natural world as God's handiwork and dedicate ourselves to its preservation, enhancement, and faithful use by humankind."

Our Social Creed 2016

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-social-creed>

Read UM Social Principles 2020

Page 11: "Recognizing that simply changing our personal habits will not be enough to reverse decades of environmental damage, the church supports local, regional, national, and international cooperative efforts aimed at redressing the ecological harms humans have wreaked on a global scale. Such cooperative efforts must include the development and enforcement of policies and practices that protect all sentient beings, and the promotion of sustainable economic development. We also encourage responsible consumption and urgent action against global warming and climate change." <https://www.umcjustice.org/news-and-stories/social-principles-2020-607>

Give thanks for good works. Thank you for taking time to recycle your grocery bags by either bringing them to the church for re-use through our Backpack Program or taking them to the bag recycling bin at the grocery store.

Don't miss guest speaker Paul Schumacher November 21 The sermon by Lay Speaker Paul will consider faithful responses to Holy Communion.

Mission and Outreach Work Update

At A/WKUMC, our Outreach and Mission work is varied recently. Please keep these situations in your prayers, and if you would like to financially support or participate in any of these activities, please let the church office know.

We recently reached out to one of our Backpack families. Through "Grace in Action", AUMC provided some home repair assistance, tearing down their garage to make room for a wheelchair ramp for the mother and painting the upstairs exterior. The lower level needs siding which will happen in spring. The congregation will be invited at that time to help with siding. Please keep this family in your prayers.

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

November is traditionally the time when we prepare Thanksgiving meals and begin to gear up for Christmas gifting through the Backpack Program. More information on how you can help will be available around November 14th. We hope you will join us in blessing others this Christmas!!



From the Pastor

Dear Friends—

The crowds are gone (the hotels, motels, and restaurants were full, folks stood in line to get into Shanty Days!) and you can walk your dogs on the beach now! Summer 2021 is in the history books, and already the Christmas toys and trinkets are on the shelves ready to be bought, wrapped, and gifted! Time to relax and enjoy the beautiful fall colors? Perhaps, but for many in our world it is time to lay awake at night worrying about what to spend on Aunt Molly or little cousin Tommy. Or perhaps whether or not to invite Uncle Ralph and hope he stays sober on Christmas eve. Or...or...or.

The Pilgrim Fathers had their answer to all of this. In 1659, and for a generation to follow, Christmas was banned in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and anyone caught in the revelries of the season was subject to a pretty stiff fine! They viewed such frivolity as a "great dishonor of God and offence of others."

Which begs the question as we see the holidays on the horizon, how will we celebrate this season? Will we worry about maxing out our credit cards, gifting and offending some unhappy relative, overlooking another? This is the time to begin planning for celebrating in the right spirit.

Jesus, to the best of our knowledge, never gave anyone a Christmas present, never struggled to wrap bulky packages, never had to drive another home because they over-indulged. What he consistently did, regardless of the season, was to give himself. He shared meals, spoke healing words, befriended, and spread compassion in every instance about which we have record.

Now is the time to begin thinking about the upcoming season in the true Christmas spirit. Bake something, craft something, contact a long-lost friend, expand our Christmas Card list or do whatever comes to mind letting others know we remember and care for them. In this way, God is honored, and the Christ Child celebrated. Plus, we can take the stress out of our Thanksgiving and Christmas days.

How about this? That we covenant to gift ourselves with a more relaxing and enjoyable series of holiday experiences? The best gifts humanly possible are our presence, love, and affection. Happy Holidays! Pastor Jennifer



I want to "Thank" everyone for their thoughts, cards, phone calls, texts, visits & all of the delicious food. Not only did you feed my body, you fed my soul.

I want to "Thank" Rita for all the rides that she provided to my doctor appointments. All her wonderful conversations along the way & the trips along the back roads which I so enjoy.

I want to "Thank" Matt, Bob, Rita & all of the congregation for the acid washing of my porch & steps. And for the purchase & installation of the safety bars. I used the bars the first day that they were installed. It is easier to get around with the bars & I feel more confident doing so.

At a time when I was feeling low & pretty alone, my church family really came through. You are all examples of God's angels amongst us.

I will never be able to express enough in words how my heart feels.

I still have a long road ahead of me. But, "With God, all things are possible".

Love Linda



The burial service for Pastor Al will be Saturday, November 6 at the Oakfield Methodist Church. Pastor Dale will do a brief service at 2:30. All are welcome to attend.



Chili-Making Coming Up!

The Packers will be playing on Sunday, November 7 at 3:25pm. We plan to sell chili after worship that day from the AUMC parking lot drive-through only, due to COVID, and we will have to see where we are with restrictions, and whether it happens or not. But Saturday, November 6 is the day of chili making. Beginning at 4pm, we need people to cut up the vegetables to be ready for the chili. This is a sit-down process. Please contact me if you can be a cutter and maker! Bring your favorite peeler & knife. We'll have pizza and treats available to eat outside. Blessings to you, and thank God for being with you, never leaving you, and always loving you. ~Pastor Jennifer

Save the Date– Book Organizing November 6

We have received a number of book donations and a beautiful bookshelf from Pastor Al. We will put volunteers to work organizing a small lending-library of church books while we are working on chili.

Siblings in Christ,

We know that God was in Christ, reconciling the world, and that relationship is the essence of transformation. We are changed by offering gifts in ways that serve each other. I am grateful for the gifted laity who lead and serve, and the dance of shared mission we discover when we deploy gifts in relationship with communities.

I write to thank you, clergy. Local Pastors, Deacons, Elders, and to you who may be spiritual leaders not yet with clergy credentials—but on the journey—thank you for your ministry!

God creates by speaking a new reality into being. God said, 'let there be light,' and there was light. Clergy, our words articulate God's newness in creation. We reset blessing in creation when we pronounce a benediction and say, 'may the Lord bless you and keep you.' We re-establish God's newness when we say, 'in the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.' We pronounce something irrevocable when you, say, 'I baptize you...' These are not just words, but language that paints God's possibilities over the worn-through grain of the world. The church is a language community establishing God's relentless solidarity and interdependent good in a world that asserts self-interest as the way of the world. October is clergy appreciation month. I hope, Siblings in Christ, you will join me in offering signs of genuine appreciation and thanksgiving to clergy.

I want you to know that clergy are paying the price of a politicized pandemic. They are exposing themselves to the harm of those who refuse to mask for their neighbor. They are trying to raise the level of maturity in Christian community so that Christ would be made known in our witness. They proclaim the Oneness of Christ in a world where powerful forces seek to divide us.

According to the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, nationally, young elders, those age 35 or younger, declined again in 2021 to 721—lower than the previous low of 852. There is a decline of young deacons since 2019 by 23%. 38% of Wisconsin clergy appointed to churches have been in their appointment three years or less—and they are trying to build pastoral relationships across a pandemic and via electronic means of communication.

Our clergy recruitment is international, bringing highly educated and gifted candidates from around the planet to serve and supply congregations in Wisconsin, and we know cross-cultural and cross-racial appointments clearly express the oneness of Christ. That said, they require deep commitment from both laity and clergy for

us to make world-transforming disciples of Jesus. Every pastor and every congregation have a cultural heritage. Where deep sharing takes place the governance of God's Spirit is made known. Thank you for choosing to make Christ known.

Ministry has always been hard enough to require both lay and clergy to rely on God and disorienting enough for us to take God's hand whenever it comes. I offer ten concrete ways to show appreciation for your clergy person.

1. Pray for your clergy persons. Deeply, earnestly, and honestly pray for their ministry.
2. Advocate for an increase in compensation and work to improve your congregation's financial stewardship.
3. Serve. Teach. Organize. Your service leads by example and blesses the body.
4. Hold accountable gossip and complaining that does not address people directly.
5. Visit someone who is grieving or sick or shut-in on behalf of the community of faith.
6. Speak well of your pastor in the church and community.
7. Reflect back to your clergy something specific that you appreciated about her or his ministry.
8. Attend classes that your clergy person offers. Support them with your presence.
9. Help others in your congregation respect the clergyperson's Sabbath day.
10. Make sure your clergy person takes regular times of vacation and gets away for continuing education.

Siblings, what you pay attention to grows. Pay attention to stewardship or mission or service—and they grow. Pay attention to the office of pastor or deacon and its value and impact will only increase—as will the people in that office. Thank you, each of you, for your ministry.

Know that I am praying for you.

In the hope that Christ offers us,
Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Make some memories:

Our kids will be playing bells at the Christmas program this year. Playing musical instruments make good memories for kids and adults. Let's learn some new Christmas songs together! If you would like to participate, please talk to Pastor so we can all start practicing together!

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

Announcements in Worship

If you have an announcement you wish made in worship, please let Pastor Jennifer know and she will be happy to make space for that announcement. You can also email it to the church for inclusion in the weekly email. If you/ your group want to share about a ministry you are a part of, a social justice concern, an opportunity you wish to invite others to participate in, etc., you or your group are welcome to do that as part of our "Call to Action" time. You could do that in person or by making a video (we can help you create a video). The "Call to Action" is right before our offering time and is a perfect place to highlight areas of ministry and living out our faith—our lives are offerings to God. Let Pastor Jennifer know if you or your group want to share at the "Call to Action" time, and we will happily and joyfully get that scheduled. Wouldn't it be great if every Sunday a group or individual shared at the "Call to Action" time about ministry that is happening!

You Are Invited to Christmas Game Night!



Mark your calendar now for Wednesday, December 22 for our Christmas Quiz Game. A Jeopardy-style game will allow us to test our knowledge in five categories of biblical and general Christmas facts. Whether this event takes place in-building or via Zoom, it will be a blast for kids & adults!

Family News Confirmation

We are going to be doing confirmation differently this year. Every other year, we will begin a new two-year confirmation program. We will start a group this fall, and they will be in a class together and will be confirmed in April of 2023. Then in the fall of 2023, we will start another two-year class. Students must be at least 12 years old by the end of 2021 to participate (classes will typically be 7th - 9th grade students, but some 6th graders may be old enough to participate). It will involve classes (one Wednesday per month) and a variety of hands-on faith, service, learning and growing experiences that will take place on overnights/retreats/day trips. We want the kids to experience faith and following Jesus. On Wednesday evenings when they don't have confirmation class, they are invited to be a part of kids Zoom. Information will be coming out soon. If you have a child 12 or older who is interested, please let Pastor Jennifer know. The first class will be Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30pm via Zoom. There is an orientation/ information meeting for students AND parents so you can learn more about the program. You can attend on Zoom that same day at 6pm. Please know parents are always welcome to attend any event with their kids or hang with us on Zoom.



CHURCHWIDE SPECIAL SUNDAYS INVESTING IN THE COMMON GOOD

United Methodist Special Sunday celebration invest in servant leadership, community building and ministries of peace with justice.

Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace filled new beginning with faithful determination.

November 28, 2021 – U M Student Day

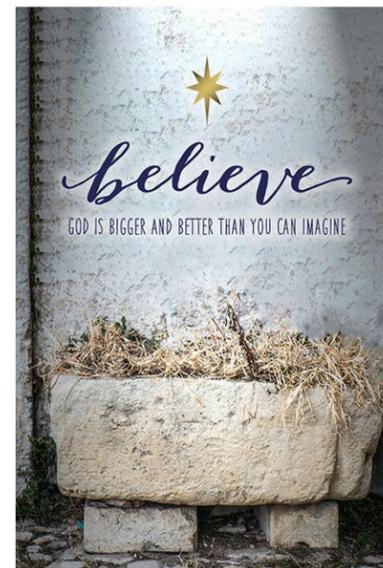
January 16, 2022 – Human Relations Day

March 27, 2022 – UMCOR Sunday

May 1, 2022 – Native American Ministries Day

June 12, 2022 – Peace with Justice Sunday

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.

On the Journey With You

Recently Rita and Bob have been working on the Joy Project. This ministry serves people who need a little lift in their day by bringing joy to their door. I would like all of us, including our children to work towards participating in the joy project this Christmas season. Together we can bring special blessings from God and the community. In some mysterious way, serving others strengthens us, names and claims us as God's beloved. Those of us who are familiar with baptism know that it is our initiation into the life of faith and calls us into a life of service by following the example of Jesus.

Living into that baptism, we mentor our kids into service. Our children can experience the call to ministry through you. This Christmas season I would like every one of us, kids and adults, to deliver goodies to shut-ins and elderly members of our church. We may find that our kids and others feel surprised and honored to go and do. In groups of four or five, we can together do real ministry. We can coach each other during the car ride to give the goodies, say something to them about the real meaning of Christmas and God's love for them, and even help with the prayer.

We believe and expect that all people can do ministry. For children & adults, that is a powerful experience. We all need to realize that we can do ministry and that God can use us to do important things. How easy it would be to have the pastor do all the work. It often times is easier and quicker. But instead we see it as a chance not only to bless the people with the presence of children but to offer young children the chance to partner with us & God in ministry.

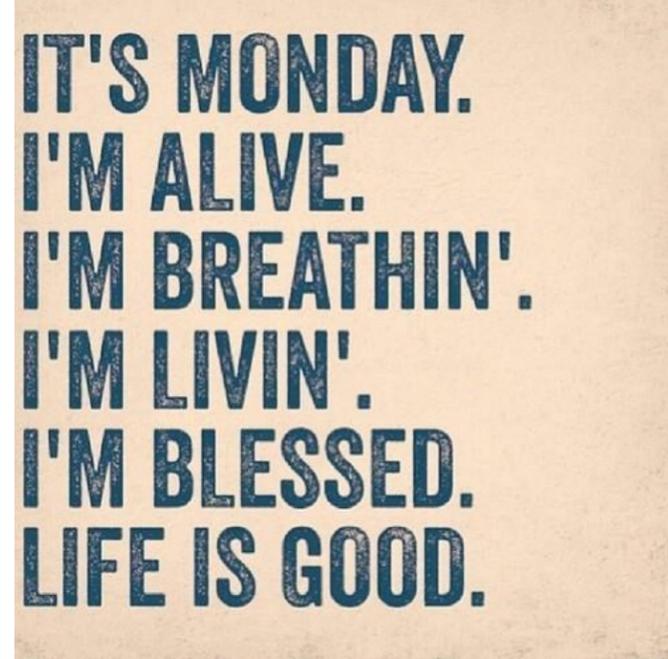
In our baptism, God calls us to ministry. Children as well as adults are called to do ministry! Children have the God-given ability to touch people's lives with the presence of Christ in amazing, beautiful ways. Let's continue to be ever-intentional about inviting children into ministry so others can be blessed by them, so they can have the chance to partner with God, and so they have the opportunity to sense God's calling in their lives as they serve in powerful, beautiful ways. On the Journey With You,
~Pastor Jennifer Emert

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.



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.



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!***