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Algoma & West Kewaunee UMC

804 Parker Avenue

Algoma, WI 54201



Shanty Days Church and Community Engagement, August 14



Algoma & West Kewaunee United Methodist Churches

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

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Emert

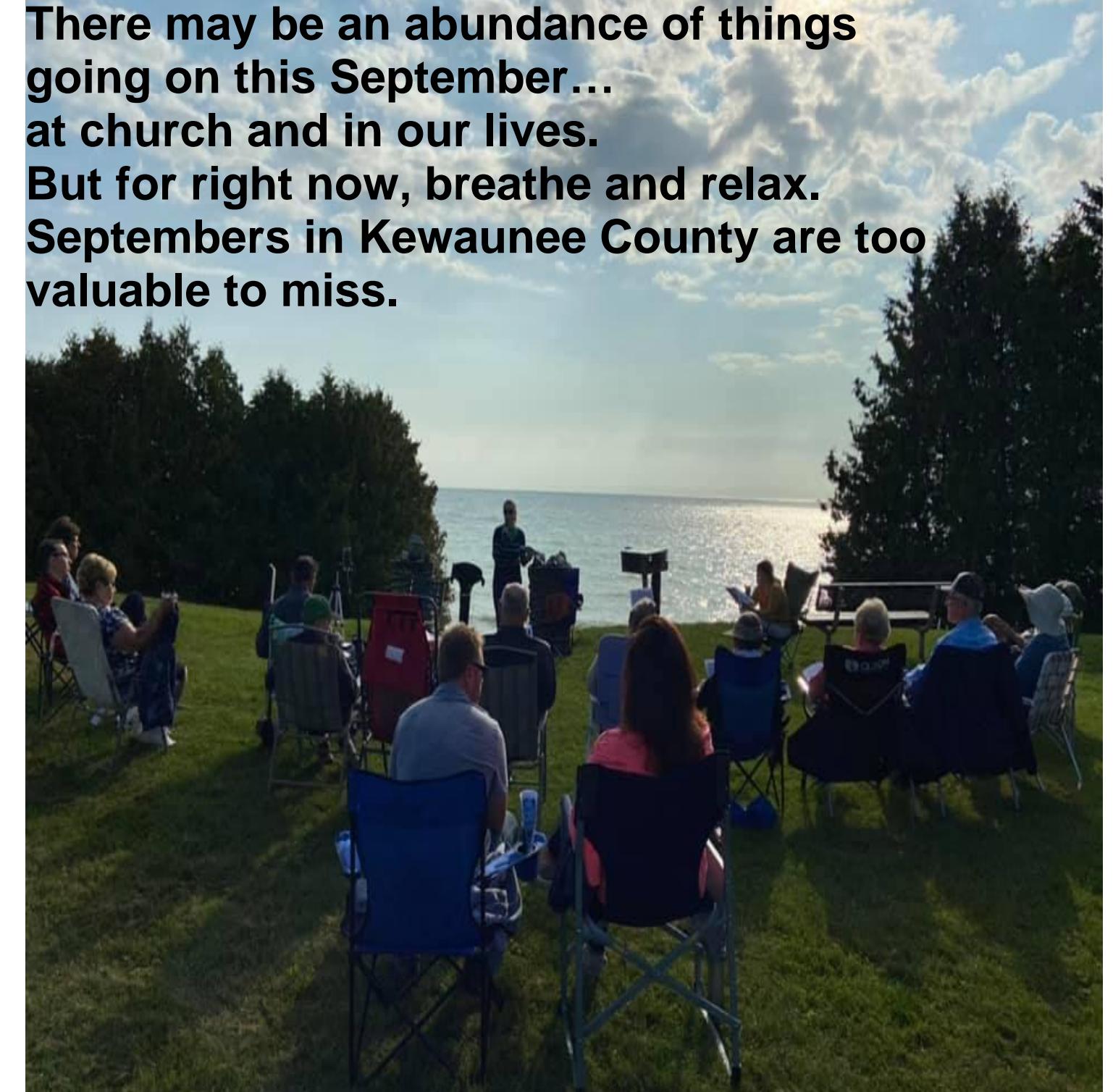
www.ourdoorsareopentoall.org ~ umcalgoma@gmail.com

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.

There may be an abundance of things going on this September... at church and in our lives. But for right now, breathe and relax. Septembers in Kewaunee County are too valuable to miss.



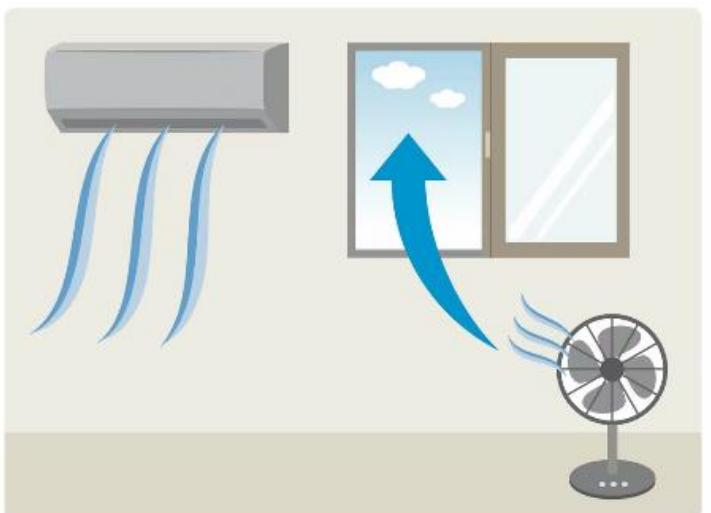
Recommendations for Worship Gatherings During Late 2022 – Early 2023

As we move through this year it has become obvious that the Omicron variants of COVID-19 present challenges for our communities that are different from those of the past. It now appears that very few of us will escape having a COVID infection. The good news is that the likelihood of serious illness or death from all of the COVID-19 Omicron variants is very low. However, the disruption from our getting back to ‘normal’ clearly remains with us. For those fully up to date on vaccination, if you develop a COVID infection the risk of hospitalization and severe disease is well below that from seasonal influenza, especially if you start taking the antiviral drug Paxlovid soon after being diagnosed with COVID-19. Since it is likely this virus will be with us well into 2023, it is good to think about what we have learned and apply that to our worship moving through the next several months.

Recommendations based on current understanding:

- COVID-19 is nearly always spread by respiratory droplets.
 - This means the likelihood of spread by things we handle such as hymnals, programs, communion trays, and offering plates is very low.
 - We can now use these items as part of our service, if that is desired.
- Wash or cleanse your hands frequently to remove any virus that may be on them.
- Try to avoid crowding indoors whenever that is possible – this is effective for minimizing spread of both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza.
- Make sure that ventilation is in good condition within your church building - this also is very effective for minimizing spread of both COVID-19 and seasonal influenza.
 - **Now is a good time to check on your ventilation system and plan for robust ventilation during the winter months** – click [here](#) for details on how to do this.
- COVID-19 outbreaks with singing or wind instrument playing have not been well defined.
 - Outbreaks described with singing have also included other risk factors such as crowding, poor indoor ventilation, and sharing of food or equipment.
 - There have been no outbreaks described with the playing of wind instruments.
 - Each congregation, and individual, should decide their level of risk tolerance for resumption of singing and instrument playing, especially if there is a high level of respiratory virus disease in the local community – some may prefer wearing a mask if singing is taking place.
- Stay home if you are sick with respiratory symptoms (and get tested for COVID).
- Get vaccinated for influenza and COVID, and keep up to date with boosters.

We can safely gather as we learn to live with COVID, and the reasonable safety measures taken will not only reduce the likelihood of illness from the COVID-19 virus, but also lower the potential for infection from influenza and other respiratory viruses throughout the year.



"The Universal Church" by D.S. Park Hunter

Don't remember the prior things; don't ponder ancient history. Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness. (Isaiah 43:18 CEB) Although I'm free from all people, I make myself a slave to all people, to recruit more of them... I act like I'm under the Law to those under the Law, so I can recruit those who are under the Law ... I act like I'm outside the Law to those who are outside the Law, so I can recruit those outside the Law ... I act weak to the weak, so I can recruit the weak. I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. (1 Corinthians 9:19-22 CEB)

Sometimes, when you're a pastor, it can be awkward to explain what you do. Folks have preconceived notions. Bit of a conversation killer. British evangelist J. John described how he handles this in a TV interview. He acts and sounds a bit like Mr. Bean, so if you've got two minutes and need a chuckle check out the video... <https://youtu.be/L6TGxKvSqH8>

Rev. John said a woman on a plane asked what he did for a living. He answered, "I work for a global enterprise. We've got outlets in nearly every country of the world. We've got hospitals, and hospices, and homeless shelters. We've got marriage programs, we've got orphanages, feeding programs, educational programs. We do all sorts of justice work and reconciliation things. Basically, we look after people from birth to death, and we deal in the area of behavioral alteration." "WOW!" the woman said, "What's it called?" John answered, "It's called the church."

For the TV audience, he elaborated, "If we are a follower of Jesus Christ, we're part of a global enterprise. But not only is it global, it's intergalactic, because it includes everyone who's gone before us!" (I liked that so much, I once suggested to my church trustees that we change the sign out front to read "Intergalactic United Methodist Church." For some reason, they didn't go for it.) Nonetheless, it is exciting to think about what we – The United Methodist Church – do. We really are a global enterprise, involved in all the things John describes. Through our connection and our apportionment giving, every local congregation member participates in outstanding mission and outreach around the world.

Moreover, every local church is part of our global mission. I love our UMC mission statement, especially the rarely-read second sentence. Paragraph 120 of *The Book of Discipline* says, "The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Local churches and extension ministries of the Church provide the most significant arenas through which disciple-making occurs." Read that again. Your local church is where our mission happens!

I hear a lot of angst and worry about what our churches can do in the new post-pandemic world. Attendance is down. It's hard to get young families back. People wonder, "When will it go back to normal?" Meaning – the pre-pandemic normal. Which if we're honest, wasn't that great. We need to hear God's words through the prophet Isaiah once again: "Don't remember the former things, don't ponder ancient history. See, I am doing a new thing!"

As I travel around the North East District to visit churches and pastors, I am deeply encouraged to see all the new things God is doing through the people called United Methodists in our local Wisconsin churches. I've seen a jazz worship service, and Pentecostal African praise team, and a classical concert that packed the church with community folks. I've listened to sermons in four languages. I've worshipped online with a church that continues to expand their disciple-making both in-person and on the internet. I've seen baptisms and new pastor installations. I've been present at the launch of a new Hispanic congregation. I've visited a church that serves a free meal every day of the week and is planning to turn extra space into affordable housing. One little country congregation of twelve people told me they packed over 200 backpacks for local school kids!

All that in just eight weeks. New things are happening all over Wisconsin among United Methodists. Our congregations are truly seeking to follow the Apostle Paul's example – to be all things to all people, so that by all means we might save some. This may feel like a wilderness time, but God works most powerfully in challenging times. Our Holy-Spirit-powered people are doing some great disciple-making and world-transforming in local churches and around the world. What an exciting time to #BeUMC... an intergalactic enterprise!

Prayer: Lord, send your Holy Spirit upon our United Methodist Church. Give us fresh eyes to see the new things you would have us do, the new people you would have us reach, the new compassion you have placed upon our hearts for our communities, right here and right now, in order to share your Good News. May we be encouraged and empowered to serve our part in your great Church. Amen

2nd Annual SUICIDE AWARENESS 3-MILE WALK

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2022
~ FIREMAN'S PARK (LUXEMBURG)

We would like you to join us for our 2nd Annual Suicide Awareness Walk for Hope. This walk is a 3-mile walk to honor those lost to suicide. It will help us to provide hope towards preventing suicide, reducing the stigma, and creating awareness for mental health. Proceeds go to families in Kewaunee County who have lost someone to suicide, scholarships to someone going into the mental health field and to the event to cover expenses.

6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. Pickup T-shirts /in person registration at Fireman's Park in Luxemburg.

8:00 a.m. to 8:50 a.m. Speaker

8:50 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. 50/50 drawing and National Anthem

9:00 a.m. Walk begins

There is a **\$20 registration fee, including a T-shirt if registered before August 16th**. Registration is available the morning of the walk, but T-shirts will not be guaranteed. Contact: Wendy Vlies - (920) 255-0153 / wvliest8704@gmail.com

All participants must complete a registration form and sign the waiver in order to participate.

Make checks payable to: Wendy Vlies

Mail to: Wendy Vlies, N8704 Spruce Rd, Casco, WI 54205
Sue Sandstrom would like to organize a group to participate. Please connect with her!

After Worship Forums with Pastor Jennifer
On October 23rd we will begin the Forum series of adult conversations and study programs at 11:30 a.m. in AUMC's lounge. On October 23rd, the topic will be What is Disaffiliation? and Why are churches Disaffiliating from the UMC across the world? This topic will be discussed on the following Sunday at West Kewaunee. I am looking for other topics for the year. Please let me know of what you would be interested in discussing or perhaps leading. During Advent and Lent we will be offering a study program during Forum time. We have lots more in store for our fall and winter programming so please watch for the announcements.
May God bless you all, Pastor Jennifer



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith is the new name of what was formerly United Methodist Women. It is a social circle and each month can provide a different program or activity. Since Covid started back in 2020, it has been hard to organize meetings. We will be starting our Fall/Winter meetings in September on **September 14, 2022**. We invite all women to join us the second Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM in the Algoma church Lounge. A book has been selected for summer reading which we will discuss at our September 14th meeting. It is entitled, "Beyond Loneliness" by Trevor Hudson. It explores how friendship with God can transform your life. In Hudson's warm, approachable style, he guides you to discover ways to deepen your relationship with God. Each chapter includes practical friendship exercises and reflections. Begin the lifelong and life-transforming journey of becoming God's friend. Five copies have been purchased and will be rotated between church members as the Algoma Public Library does not own copies of this book. Watch for copies on the ledge outside our pastor's office as they become available. People long for relationship with others, but what may surprise them is that God longs to be friends with them. This book provides guidance for building a close friendship with God and easing the ache of loneliness. For questions or to order a book, please contact Pastor Jennifer 487-2727 or Roberta Gale 863-6846. Please practice safe social distancing and frequent hand washing so we can all be safe and well. We always welcome new members and invite you to join this group of ladies. Hope to see you there in September!

Looking Ahead...

The Methodist Women of Wisconsin will have their Annual Gathering October 20-21. We will share more details as they become available for anyone interested in participating.

Thank You for a Successful Rummage Sale

The 2022 City-Wide Garage Sale is in the books. It was a great two days of food, music, fun, games, and Rummage! The weather cooperated, every single pint, quart, and gallon of Booyah was sold. Bunches of volunteers worked throughout the week to make everything move smoothly. It would be impossible to list all the volunteers who made this day possible. All are appreciated, and AUMC is so grateful for all you do. A special thanks to Rummage Rita; Bob Lohrey, the Master of Booyah for the day; as well as the terrific work from our confirmation students, Roy, Ronnie, and Bob Berkley. We raised nearly \$1,500 for AUMC programs and services! Due to how much of that money came from Booyah and how much work the Rummage Sale is, our Administrative Council has decided next year we will not sell (or collect) rummage, we will only sell food this weekend. Mark your calendars for the 2023 Community Rummage Sale on July 7-8, 2023. Thank you also to everyone who will find a different home for their rummage next year!



Save the Date! Back to School Lock-in – September 16-17

All middle school and high school kids are invited to a fun lock-in beginning at 7pm Friday and ending on Saturday morning at 10am. Put the date on your calendar! If any adults would like to volunteer, we will need help chaperoning.

Volunteer for the American Red Cross –
Every day, the American Red Cross sees the heartbreak of people trying to cope with more intense storms, heavier rainfall, and higher temperatures. As more people rely on the Red Cross for help, the need for compassionate volunteers has never been greater.

You can help comfort and support people who are forced from their homes due to fires, storms and other emergencies, so they don't have to face tough times alone. Join us and turn your compassion into action by becoming a volunteer today. We are actively recruiting for these critical volunteer roles:

Shelter Support Team: During large disasters, you can support the day-to-day activities within a shelter which may include working in reception, registration, feeding, dormitory, information or other areas within a shelter. Free online training will be provided. If the need arises, volunteers are asked to commit to multiple local shifts of 4-12 hours each. For those able to travel outside of their local area, a commitment of at least 14 consecutive days, working 8- or 12-hour shifts is required.

Disaster Health Services Team: During large disasters, you can use your professional skills as a [licensed healthcare provider](#) to deliver hands on care and education to shelter residents. Free online training will be provided and can count towards nursing continuing education units. If the need arises, volunteers are asked to commit to multiple local shifts of 4-12 hours each. For those able to travel outside of their local area, a commitment of at least 10-14 consecutive days, working 8- or 12-hour shifts is required. Qualified licenses include RN, LPN, LVN, EMT, Paramedic, MD, DO, PA, NP, APRN. Only RNs have full scope of practice.

Disaster Action Team: While big hurricanes and wildfires get the most news coverage, smaller disasters are no less devastating to the families affected. Most of the 60,000 emergencies that the Red Cross responds to each year are smaller disasters like home fires. As a [Disaster Action Team](#) volunteer, you can help comfort and support people in your community by meeting any immediate needs such as food, shelter, clothing or supplies and connecting them to long term recovery services. We supply all the training you need and it is provided free of charge.

