

# Albany United Methodist Church

125 N Broadway St  
PO Box 277  
Albany, IN 47320-0277  
Pastor Jake Ohlemiller



*We are:*

***Acting as God's Ambassadors***  
***United by God's Love***  
***Motivated by God's Word, to***  
***Care for Our Community***

**Sunday Worship 9:30am**

**Sunday School 10:45am**

**A Better Life: Brianna's Hope – Fridays @ 6:30pm**

**Project Friend Food Pantry – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays 4:00-7:00pm**



Return Address Requested



### Operation Christmas Child 2018

Items to purchase in the month of August:

- Notebooks (smaller ones fit better)
- Pencils (regular & colored ones)
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pens (any color)
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Rulers
- Calculators



### From the Finance Committee:

July 2018 Giving: \$10,552.45

July 2018 Expenses: \$11,489.81

July 2017 Giving: \$14,558.13

July 2017 Expenses: \$12,085.73



Where there is no laughter, and where there are no tears,  
not much is happening.  
(Anonymous)



# August Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 8~2 Nancy Rickert, Don Romine
- 8~8 Louise Arbogast, Darrell Hensley
- 8~9 Jack Janney, Norma Yates
- 8~10 Kathy Littler
- 8~14 Cheryl Wasson
- 8~21 Morgan Whitehair
- 8~25 Rick Frazee
- 8~26 Martie Butcher
- 8~30 Nancy Bruce
- 8~31 Kayla Stephenson

## Anniversaries

- 8~5 Darryl & Mary Hurt
- 8~13 Lucas & Abi Wright
- 8~16 Jim & Linda Moore
- 8~21 Harry & Sherry Wright
- 8~23 Rich & Donna Rees
- 8~25 Jack & Linda Janney

**September 23:** Installation Service for new Conference Superintendent Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright...3pm at New Castle First UMC

**October 17:** District Charge Conference hosted by Albany UMC

**November 20:** Albany Community Thanksgiving Service at Albany Bethel UMC

**December 9:** Albany Community Christmas Service at Albany UMC





You are invited to join the Albany Community Garden team in the Church Garden for our summer work days!

Dates: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, June through September

Times: 8am-12pm

Location: Church Garden, outside the Youth Community Center

Produce from this garden goes to Project Friend Food Pantry. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to support this ministry. You are welcome to come one time, every time, or just stop by to lend a hand for an hour or so.

## Update from our Minister of Community Engagement:

Hello Church! After taking a few weeks off to visit family in St. Louis, attend Annual Conference, and start a new job, I returned to my regular work schedule in late June. I'd like to share my plans for the rest of 2018.

- I will continue to serve as a liaison between Albany Elementary School and the Albany Community Garden team over the summer and when the students come back to class in the fall. This has been such an exciting project for all of us!
- I am reaching out to everyone involved in our volunteer police chaplaincy program to check in about how it is going and to offer support as needed.
- I will help the Adult Ministries Team prepare for their upcoming luncheon in support of our community's first responders by serving as a liaison to the Police, Fire, and EMS.
- I will facilitate the planning of another Worship with Your Hands event (or more) this fall.
- I will be taking a more active role in worship by serving as Worship Assistant once per month and leading prayers regularly. I am hoping this will help us to better integrate our ministries and will also help me to feel more comfortable leading in worship as I near the end of my seminary courses.
- I will be partnering with Jake in getting to know the strengths and needs of the congregation better, and in addressing those needs through faith formation programming.
- I will have a report (like this one) in every newsletter to keep you informed.

I feel grateful for the opportunity to invest myself in our church's ministries more fully, and I pray the Spirit will lead in all that I do.

Please always feel free to contact me with questions, suggestions, or requests to collaborate!

Janelle

765-426-8601

[janelle.ohlemiller@gmail.com](mailto:janelle.ohlemiller@gmail.com)

# AUGUST 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Bible Study 10:30am  Hand Chimes 6:45pm  Choir 7:30pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> ABLBH 6:30pm (Basement)	<b>4</b> Community Garden Work Day 8am-12pm
<b>5</b> Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:10am <b>Worship 9:30am</b> Fellowship 10:30am <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:45am</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Food Pantry 4-7pm	<b>8</b> Bible Study 10:30am  Hand Chimes 6:45pm  Choir 7:30pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> ABLBH 6:30pm (Basement)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:10am <b>Worship 9:30am</b> Fellowship 10:30am <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:45am</b>	<b>13</b> AUMC Preschool Starts	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Bible Study 10:30am  Hand Chimes 6:45pm  Choir 7:30pm	<b>16</b> Office Open 8a,-2pm	<b>17</b> Office Closed  ABLBH 6:30pm (Basement)	<b>18</b> Community Garden Work Day 8am-12pm
<b>19</b> Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:10am <b>Worship 9:30am</b> Fellowship 10:30am <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:45am</b>	<b>20</b> Church Council Meeting 7pm (Lounge)	<b>21</b> Food Pantry 4-7pm	<b>22</b> Bible Study 10:30am  Hand Chimes 6:45pm  Choir 7:30pm	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> ABLBH 6:30pm (Basement)	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:10am <b>Worship 9:30am</b> Fellowship 10:30am <b>Sunday School</b> <b>10:45am</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Bible Study 10:30am  Hand Chimes 6:45pm  Choir 7:30pm	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> ABLBH 6:30pm (Basement)	

## From Pastor Jake

Dear AUMC family and friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray this newsletter finds you richly blessed in all the very best of God's gifts—holiness, contentment, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

You may already know that our United Methodist denomination is at a historic crossroads in our 50+ year journey. Ever since our connection was formed in 1968, faithful United Methodists have been unable to agree about how the Church should respond to our society's growing affirmation of people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or “queer” (LGBTQ+). Our *Book of Discipline* holds that LGBTQ+ persons cannot be considered for ordination or licensing as our pastors, and that same-sex marriages cannot be performed in our churches. Many United Methodists are calling passionately for these rules to change, while many others believe just as firmly that they should be left as they are.

In my personal experience, clergy and laypeople on both “sides” love Jesus, read the Bible, and are trying to obey God's will the best way they know how. In recent years, however, the spirit of trust and cooperation between “progressive” and “conservative” United Methodists has become dangerously frayed—following much the same pattern we find in our nation's political landscape. At our 2016 General Conference in Portland, Oregon, with frustrations reaching a breaking point, 864 delegates from around the world (including 16 from Indiana) decided that it's time to decide: *How will we resolve our disagreements in a way that honors God's love for all of us?*

Since that time, the 32-member Commission on a Way Forward, selected by the Council of Bishops to include a wide range of perspectives and cultures, has been working on three different plans which might answer that question. These proposals will be addressed at a special General Conference to be held in St. Louis in February 2019, with the same delegates from 2016 returning to accept the serious burden of deciding our denomination's future.

As your pastor, it's my responsibility to help you understand the three proposals, and to lead you in thinking through how each one might affect our congregation. In the months ahead, our Church Council and I will create opportunities for all of us to learn, discuss, and pray together as a body. For now, there are two things I need you to know:

- 1) **First**, I promise to be open with you about my own hopes and fears, and I will always be ready to listen to yours.
- 2) **Second**, I will always love you and desire to pray with you, whether we agree or disagree with each other on any particular question. I believe this is part of our evangelical witness to Jesus Christ in an age of division and polarization.

Stay tuned for invitations to study and discuss the possibilities that 2019 may bring about. More importantly, however, when you sit down for prayer this week, I invite you to ponder this:

God has empowered us to continue worshiping, singing, praying, and hearing the Word of God, every Sunday, for more than 120 years;

God has enabled us to build a new community building, to launch a Brianna's Hope recovery ministry, and to provide food each month for dozens of families;

God has empowered us to expand our community garden, to build a supportive relationship with our first responders, and to consider new service projects around Albany;

God makes us able to support worthy causes with thousands of dollars each year through our Resale Shop;  
and God has blessed us with the chance to perform a floor-to-ceiling renovation of our beautiful sanctuary...  
So, no matter what happens in the UMC, what I really want to know is...

*What amazing thing is God planning to do next?*

Your companion in Christ,  
*Pastor Jake*

## Building Renovation Fund Update

May 2018: \$2,505.00

June 2018: \$4,685.00

July 2018: \$2,665.00

Thank you to all who have submitted their pledge cards.

There is still time to submit your card. Contact the church office if you need one.



A big thank you to Jim Clevenger for all the hours he has spent around the church this summer weeding and trimming. The church grounds look beautiful and we are so appreciative!! When you see Jim around town, be sure to thank him for his service to AUMC.

## Received by Albany UMC:

- A thank you from Covenant Partners Ministries for our donation of stickers and Sunday School curriculum to their ministry.
  - A thank you from Kim DeVoss (Albany Elementary School art teacher) for our donation of art and craft supplies
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# HOW LITTLE CHILDREN PERCEIVE THEIR GRANDPARENTS

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colors yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what color it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these colors yourself!"

When my grandson Billy and I entered our vacation cabin, we kept the lights off until we were inside to keep from attracting pecky insects. Still, a few fireflies followed us in. Noticing them before I did, Billy whispered, "It's no use Grandpa. Now the mosquitoes are coming after us with flashlights."

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised. "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."