



# The SPIRE

**First United Methodist Church**

[www.albionfirst.org](http://www.albionfirst.org)

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

## A Bit of Background

Last month, I introduced myself by telling you a little about my call to ministry because that's where it all has to begin ... with the call.

But I also know that you likely have a few, more basic questions. Who is this person? What is she like? Will I connect with her as my pastor? Soon enough, I will be working and worshipping with you so you will be able to answer these questions for yourself. In the meantime, let me share the basics.

I was born and raised in Valparaiso, IN, coming to Michigan to attend Albion College. After graduating in 1994, I rented an apartment in town (on Cass) for a year before heading off to Mississippi to work on a political campaign. For the next five years, I was based in Mississippi but traveled the country doing political work.

In 2000, I returned to Michigan for good and soon went to work for state government. I held a variety of jobs during my 15 years in state government, including Staff Director for the Senate Democratic Caucus, Communications Director for the State Budget Office, Special Projects Manager for the Governor, Chief of Staff for the Lieutenant Governor and finally Deputy Director at the Department of Civil Rights.

In 2015, I knew it was time to follow God's call. University United Methodist Church in East Lansing offered me a true gift - the chance to work in ministry while I began my education. It's been a remarkable 18 months at UUMC. In that time, I've become a licensed local pastor, completed my first year of seminary and learned the business of ministry. Thanks to their love and encouragement, I am ready to embark on our journey together.

Shortly after returning to Michigan, I also became a foster parent and eventually adopted

## June 2017

Leadership Listing	2
Note from Jeanne Randels	
Prayers	
Upcoming Worship	
Come Help Us Celebrate	3
Did You Know	
Ministerial Transitions...	
Piecemakers Makes a Difference	
Please Support Women United	
Calendar	4
UMW News and Views	5

*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

a young boy named Dustin. While single parenthood was never my intended goal, God has a way of nudging us to places where we are needed. Dustin is grown now and recently became a father, himself. My grandson, Justin James, will be nearly 6 months old by the time I arrive in Albion.

As you can probably tell, I have always been driven and defined by the work I do. But I like to play, too. I love sports, especially baseball. I've played softball most of my life and will probably look for a team once I'm settled. I will work any kind of puzzle, play almost any card game and am an avid reader. I also love to travel and have had the chance to visit many interesting places, including Antarctica and South America earlier this year.

So, that's my story. Soon, we'll have the opportunity to get to know one another better. I hope you will participate in one of the get-acquainted events being planned so that I can learn your story, too. Blessings,

Pastor Leslee

## Prayers

Ken Bentley, Tamara Williams, Torrey Wyma, and Sherry Wyma @ home

Staci Stuart @ Mary Free Bed Hospital, Grand Rapids

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Dan Seelye @ Arbor Manor, North 31, Spring Arbor

## Dear Ones,

I am so grateful for the prayers you have offered for my recovery following my slip and fall in February. While in the hospital I was told that full healing would take about a year, but really, I am back to full activity, without any pain at all anymore. Thanks for all that you love has done to make this possible. Paul and I both send our greetings!

Jeanne Randels

## Leadership

Lay Leader	Lois Fennimore glfennimore@yahoo.com
Church Council Chair	Mark Robison majerobi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sally Ammerman sallya@wowway.com
Trustees Chair (Building & Property)	Gary Harrison
Staff-Parish Co-Chairs (Personnel)	Evelyn Gedman Barbara Lange
Finance Committee	Rick Lange Langehome.1@gmail.com
Pastor	Jeremy Williams jeremy@albionfumc.org
Choir Director	Drew Dunham
Music Director /Pianist	Jan Fourn
Administrative Secretary	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard

## Upcoming Worship

**June 4:** Jeremy is away at Annual Conference. The message will be delivered by Pastor Dick Lewin.

**June 11** is Jeremy's last Sunday in Albion. We will celebrate his time with us and the many blessings he has brought to this congregation immediately following the service with a Potluck Luncheon Reception in Tennant Hall. Please plan to attend.

**June 18:** Message will be delivered by Pastor Dick Lewin.

**June 25:** Message will be delivered by Pastor Dick Lewin.

**July 2:** Message will be delivered by Lay Leader, Lois Fennimore.

## Ministerial Transitions are In the Works

**A Fond Farewell...** Save the date for Pastor Jeremy's Farewell Reception. Please plan to attend a Potluck Lunch Reception on June 11 immediately following Sunday Service. There will be an opportunity to sign up bring a salad. The main course and dessert will be provided.

This is Jeremy's last day to lead us in worship - a fitting time to say goodbye, give a memory gift or two and maybe hear the music of Jeremy's band for one last round.

You are encouraged to make a gift of love to a pastor who has served this congregation for eight years, has been part of our lives in good times and sad, and has enriched us with music, kindness and biblical understanding. Write your check to *FUMC Albion*. Indicate that it is a "gift of love" and place it in the offering plate or mail/deliver it to the office. Please note that your gift will not be recorded in your Personal Church Giving Statement. It is a personal gift that will not show on your statement.

**A Warm Welcome...** Pastor Leslee will begin her service here on July 1. Her first Sunday in the pulpit will be July 9th. She will move into our parsonage in late June, in order to be a better presence in our church and civic community. One of the best ways you can help introduce her to the congregation and the community is to invite her to your home or out to eat, together with a group of friends and neighbors. Be sure to include friends who aren't part of the congregation, so people can meet her.

We are planning Welcome Breakfast for Pastor Leslee on July 9. Again, please mark your calendar and help us welcome her into our midst.

## Come and Help us Celebrate

Rocky Hutchins will graduate from Concord High School on June 4, 2017. Tony and Kathy invite you to join them for his Open House on June 17, from 4-7 p.m. at 408 E. Erie Street in Albion.

## Did You Know...

During the past month, the *House by the Side of the Road* fund assisted three families facing rent or eviction issues, and helped five other situations involving delinquent or shut-off utilities. In addition to this, the *Baby Pantry* assisted ten families with diapers, wipes, and/or baby formula. There is genuine appreciation expressed by those who receive help in their challenging situations; your giving has a tremendous, positive impact on many lives.

## Piecemakers Makes a Difference

On May 18, the following e-mail message was sent to the church through the link on our Web site and it says it all!

Hello,

Last night, I spent some time in the ER with my five year old son. While there, the nurse brought him a blanket from Piecemakers at your church.

I wanted to thank the group that puts together these quilts. It brought my son so much joy to look at all the animals on the quilt and he was able to fall asleep snuggled up in it at the hospital.

The nurse let him bring it home, and he slept with it last night and was still excited about it this morning.

Thank you for providing these blankets! They really do make a difference!

Amanda

## Please Support Women United

You can help by donating items for the WU store which are made available to the members in return for participation in the program. Items needed include:

- **paper products:** toilet paper, paper towels, facial tissues
- **cleaning products:** laundry detergent, dish soap, sponges, liquid cleaner, glass cleaner
- **kitchen utensils and towels**
- **new or like-new linens:** sheets, towels, washcloths
- **grooming products:** shower and bath soaps, hand soaps and sanitizers shampoo and cream rinse, disposable razors, for women and men

**Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 Band

9:30 Refreshments

10:00 Worship

11:00 Refreshments

**Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

# June 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>4</b> Sunday Schedule Communion	<b>5</b> 12p First Church Seniors 7p Boy Scouts	<b>6</b> 8a Biggby Bible Study	<b>7</b> 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study	<b>8</b> 5:30p Women United Leadership Mtg 7p Trustees Mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 2p Loomis Graduation Open House
<b>11</b> Sunday Schedule 11:30a Jeremy's Farewell Celebration	<b>12</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>13</b> 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition Mtg 6p FUMC Vision Team	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 3p Freed Graduation Open House
<b>18 FATHER'S DAY</b> Sunday Schedule	<b>19</b> 1:30 pm Entre Nous 5:30 pm Women United 7p Boy Scouts	<b>20</b> 8a Biggby Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 12p Red Cross Blood Drive @ Knights of Columbus	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Sunday Schedule 11:30a Cleaning Day @ Parsonage	<b>26</b> 7p Boy Scouts	<b>27</b> 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers 6p FUMC Vision Team	<b>28</b> 5p SPRC Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

## UMW This Summer

There are just few things on the UMW calendar that should be highlighted. Even though it is a momentous summer for us all (transitioning to a new minister after 8 years!) the thread of UMW activity goes on in the background.

The Seniors luncheon in June has been moved to June 5, due to the farewell potluck for Jeremy and Tamara on the 11th. Mission U will be July 13-15. . Summer refresher will be at Carolyn Gaswick's house on July 18th. We'll be meeting our new minister on July 9<sup>th</sup>—

not exclusively a UMW event, but a celebratory *Welcome Breakfast* that will require our input. Barb Stowell has mentioned displaying some of the Piecemakers quilts for our new pastor.

We hope to see you all over the course of the summer, participating in our activities and adding to the life of our church.

In Christ,  
Polly Moore.