



# The SPIRE

**First United Methodist Church**

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

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

## September

It's the month of buckling down. Noses to the grindstone, shoulders to the wheel, hands to the plow, and all that. That passing madness that was summer will fade from memory in a blur of homework, late lawn-mowing, early raking, and all sorts of responsible things. It's also a time of new beginnings: not only does school start, but September 16th is the most common birthday in America.

If summer is a time when we get outside and feel the presence of God on a lake or a trail, then fall is the time for seeing how to bring that experience into our ordinary lives. How can we import wonder into our everyday world? How can we bring spiritual refreshment into the stale routine? Clearly lots of spiritual self-help writers have had their own noses to the grindstone, for there are plenty of books out there on everyday spiritual practices.

New practices are great, but I want to caution you against simply adding spiritual practices to your daily to-do list. You need to make room for it first, which probably means letting something else go. And since you are a hands-to-the-plow sort of person, you have a hard time doing that. In fact, you're so busy that we're not sure where you found the time to read this far!

So for all you September people, with your shoulders hard against the wheel, the first spiritual discipline I want to suggest is this: quit something. Believe it or not, someone else can handle it. Discover that you are not indispensable. And the second discipline is this: don't fill up that tiny space in your life with something else--not TV, not games, not socializing: nothing. And then slow down just a bit. Now, if you still need to create time for the important things (prayer, exercise, eating right, for instance), go crazy and quit something else. Don't feel bad about it. You can tell your friends that this is a spiritual discipline. They'll get jealous, and wonder where you got the time for something they desperately want. Time with God.

Pastor Jeremy

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*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

## Prayers

Dottie Kammer, Dick Rutkoskie , Torrey Wyma,  
Beverly Bentley and Ken Bentley @ home

Nancy Held @ Maplewood in Marshall

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Florence Reed @ Spring Arbor Assisted Living,  
Spring Arbor

Dan Seelye @ Arbor Manor, S1-10, Spring Arbor

## 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
Pianist	Jan Fourn
Administrative Secretary	Cindi Klingel office@albionfumc.org
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard



## Women United Yard Sale a Success

Women United raised over \$900 at their recent sale!

Thank you to all who donated items and to all who gave of their time. Your contributions helped to make the fundraiser a success.



## Brightmoor 2016

Hands 4 Detroit is an annual day of service and a food drive sponsored by the Detroit Renaissance District of the United Methodist Church. Hands 4 Detroit will bring together 1000 volunteers of all ages from across Southeast Michigan, who alongside residents of Brightmoor will put their hands to work on clean up and beautification projects. Hands 4 Detroit is held the first Saturday of October each year. This year it will be on October 1, 2016. Registration will be at Brightmoor Aldersgate United Methodist Church located at 12065 W. Outer Dr., Detroit, MI 48223. The opening ceremony will be at 9am. Besides the neighborhood clean up, volunteers will be working at Gompers Elementary and Murphy Middle School. Hands 4 Detroit partners with Gleaners Food Bank to collect food that will be distributed to area pantries.

Registration will be available on line beginning August 15, 2016 at

[www.Hands4Detroit.org](http://www.Hands4Detroit.org)

This is an amazing opportunity for you, your family, your church, your school or your business to be a part of the change we all want to see in Detroit.

For more information, please contact  
Hands4Detroit2016@gmail.com

# Worshiping through September

## Arguments in the Bible

The Bible is not simply a group of texts that share the same truths and points of view. The Bible is intentionally a collection of disagreements and arguments about the very foundations of faith, life, and community. **Beginning August 21**, Jeremy begins a six-week series on some of the most profound **arguments** that the Bible has handed on to us. We're invited to join the conversation--and maybe take sides!

### August 21: North and South

From Jacob (Genesis 35:1-10) to Jesus and the Samaritans (John 4:9-11, 21-24), the history of people in Palestine was divided between two groups of people, who were usually two nations, and sometimes despised each other. The roots of the story (2 Kings 17:4-6; 17-24) shape a thousand sensitivities and perceptions over the years, including our own.



### August 28: Prophet and Priest



This one never goes away: it's the struggle between maintaining order and purity (a priest's job) and crying for justice (a prophet's job). Readings from Amos 4 and 5, Isaiah 56:10-12, Jeremiah 7 and 26. Is

there a way to keep these two things in tension?

### September 4: Purity and Power

Purity is not a word that gets much play these days, but the idea is still around. We have an intuition that the pursuit of power is always at odds with trying to stay pure. The same goes for religious power-seekers as for political candidates for national office. On the other hand, when the powerful try to get purity on their side, terrible things can happen, like ethnic "cleansing" and mass deportation. The Bible is full of stories that pit purity against power. We'll consider a couple of them, from Ezra 10:28-39, Nehemiah 10:2-5, and from Jesus' powerful statement about the difference between inner and outer purity, in Matthew 23:23-28.

### September 11: Jew and Greek

Well, if by Greek, you mean people who aren't Jewish, who share the common language (Greek), and generally don't get Judaism, then you understand the conflict. The first generation of Christians fought hard about the question of whether someone who wasn't Jewish should be allowed to be a Christian. This is our first big argument among Christians, and it has been the foundation for anti-semitism for millennia. Acts 7:51-53, 13:44-52.

### September 18: Law and Grace

This is as simple and as difficult as two questions:

1) How do I get to heaven? and

2) How am I supposed to

live? The New

Testament spends a

lot of time on this

argument. One one

side we have

Matthew, James, and a

few other books. On the

other side we have John and Paul. The great thing

is that the people who decided what we should

have in our Bible thought we deserved to hear both

sides of the argument, and make up our own minds.

We'll look at James 1:22-27, Mark 10:17-27, and

John 3:14-18.



### September 25: Knowledge and Wisdom

In 1 Corinthians, Paul suggests that the whole Christian message is "wisdom to the foolish," which seems to mean that if you think you can explain the Christian faith to smart people, then you're wrong. This hasn't kept people from using a lot of ink and paper trying to do just that. And the Bible spends plenty of time talking about wisdom, and about studying the Bible. We'll look at a couple of other passages from Paul (Ephesians 5:6-15 and Philippians 3:9-16) and one from a gospel: (Luke 11:52; 12:22-34).

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**September 5** Labor Day -  
Office Closed

**September 17** Albion District UMW  
Gathering in Concord

**September 19** Women United Regular Monthly  
Meeting

**September 22** Red Cross Blood Drive

**September 24** Healthy Babies Day

**September 26** Faithful Families Nutrition Class



# UMW News

Since I was 5 years old, September has never ceased to have a magical newness. I loved the excitement of a new teacher, new and old friends, different classrooms, new books, and new classes. (This year, Albion has the excitement of a “renewed” school!) But what I always dreaded, once I learned to read and write, was the assignment to write “What I Did Last Summer”. It was hard to make even an exciting summer interesting to the teacher, and if I had to read the assignment in front of the class, I’d wonder how my classmates would react if they didn’t have a family vacation or spend a week on an aunt’s farm. This summer, even if I hadn’t gone away from Albion, I think that I would have loved the changes of rhythm in the activities, sunrises, sunsets, and sounds that summer brings.

In July, John and I and Sally Ammerman went to school, Mission U, that is, at Albion College for three days with 121 other people; adults, youth, and children from West Michigan. Where else could we meet old friends, make new ones, be challenged by *The Bible and Human Sexuality*, enjoy the food, music, faith, and culture of our Latin American neighbors, and be encouraged to act on what we learned about climate change in order to make a difference. We worshiped, sang, prayed, read, discussed, listened, and were stretched to think in new ways.

Later in July, John and I went to a United Methodist retreat center for a family camp in Pennsylvania with our daughter and two grandchildren. What fun we had together, ages 4 ½ to 79, bringing new understanding to the fruits of the spirit; love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23). Singing, games, campfires, field trips, art projects, family-style meals, and skits gave all of us great joy.

Having time in August with all of our family members at our cottage has been relaxing and renewing. I am ready for whatever the school of life brings in September.

Blessings always,  
Donna Williams

The month of September seems as if it is a new beginning after a summer of vacations, relaxation and fewer activities. But it really is a sprint to Thanksgiving, Christmas and the end of the year.

We had a good attendance at the UMW summer refresher held at Evelyn Gedman’s home in June. It was a chance to catch up on the activities of friends. Several of our members attended Mission U this summer to learn about the study programs for next year.

Now that September is here the afternoon circle will be meeting on September 15th with the program presented by Jake Weber at 1 PM in Wesley Lounge. Her topic will be Church World Service and SERV. The evening circle (Cook/Stowell) will be having a potluck at Jackie Holdsworth’s home 16631 29 Mile Rd. at 6:00 pm on September 13th. Every woman is invited to attend these events.

Several events are planned by the UMW District that might be of interest to our members. The first is the Albion United Methodist Women Annual District meeting. It will be held at the Concord United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 17. The speaker will be Linda Schraam from the Detroit UMW Conference. Then the West Michigan UMW Conference meeting will be held on October 15, at Central United Methodist Church in Muskegon. Speaker for that meeting will be Nichea on HAPI in Haiti. Reservations for this meeting need to be in on September 30th. These meetings are interesting. You have a chance to meet UMW members from other churches and cities, all interested in promoting the work of the United Methodist Women organization.

The Conference has planned a mission bus tour, Journey to Lake Junaluska, stopping in Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina and Tennessee. This will take place from October 26 to October 30. The tour will include visits to Red Bird Mission, Folk Art Craft Center on the Blue Ridge Parkway, a tour of the Scarritt Bennett Center, and a visit to the Upper Room Chapel. If you are interested in this tour, I have a brochure that gives the details and cost. It sounds interesting.

Alice Cook



## Church Directory

Due to traveling a lot, I've been noticing lately that fewer people are wearing their name tags. I also am remembering names for people less too. Looking at old church directories in the church office has helped some, but there are quite a few people who are not in the old directories.

Several people have suggested that a new directory be created. This would contain pictures and some information (like name, address and contact information) about people associated with the church. Tentative plans call for pictures being taken before and after church during the month of October. Anyone who is interested in copies of their pictures could get them for a minimal charge.

Sometime in November or December copies of the created directory will be made available to those whose pictures are within. There is an understanding that information about individuals in the directory will not be given out to those not



associated with the church.

Please plan on attending sometime during October and having your picture taken at that time.



## Plea for Diapers and Unscented Wipes

This year Healthy Babies Day, 2016 will be Saturday, September 24 at First United Methodist Church from 10-2.

We have increased the age limit to pregnant - 18 month old babies and are expecting even more families to attend this wonderful, educational event.

We are asking for your help. We need diapers and/or unscented wipes, especially the larger sizes, 4, 5 and 6. The smaller size packages work best since we can't split them.

FUMC has been instrumental in making Healthy Babies Day possible these past 7 years. Once again, thank you for your prayers and support.

Sharon Hostetler for the Healthy Babies Day Committee

**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

# September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30 am Sermon Discussion	5 LABOR DAY Church Office CLOSED	6 8 am Biggby Bible Study	7 1:15 Sheldon Place Bible Study	8 10 am AALL Assembly Meeting	9	10
11 Sunday Schedule 11:30 am Sermon Discussion	12 12 pm First Church Seniors	13 8 am Biggby Bible Study 9 am SAP Mtg 6 pm UMW Evening Circle - Holdsworth	14 1:15 Sheldon Place Bible Study 3 pm City of Albion Town Hall Mtg	15 1 pm UMW Afternoon Circle 2 pm Healthy Babies Day Mtg 7 pm Trustees Mtg	16 1:30 pm Albion Health Care Alliance Board Mtg	17 ALBION DISTRICT UMW GATHERING (Concord) 6 pm Albion Alumni Association Banquet
18 Sunday Schedule 11:30 am Sermon Discussion 5 pm Church Council	19 1:30 pm Entre Nous 5:30 pm Women United	20 8 am Biggby Bible Study	21 1:15 Sheldon Place Bible Study	22 12 pm Red Cross Blood Drive 5 pm Albion District Superintendency	23 3 pm Healthy Babies Day Setup	24 HEALTHY BABIES DAY
25 Sunday Schedule 11:30 am Sermon Discussion	26 4530 pm Women United Nutrition Class 5:30 pm Women United	27 8 am Biggby Bible Study 10 am Piecemakers	28 1:15 Sheldon Place Bible Study 4 pm SPRC Mtg	29	30	31