



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

Signs of Spring are everywhere ... in the tiny flowers blooming on the parsonage porch ... in the frantic preparations of students on the cusp of graduation ... in the start of another baseball season (and the eternal hope of my fellow Chicago Cubs fans) ... in another celebration of our savior's resurrection!

And Spring is turning out to be a busy time in the life of our church. Thanks to the efforts of a lot of talented and hard-working folks, we are getting organized, modernizing our technology, cleaning out clutter and refurbishing our spaces ... all while continuing to serve the needs of our community.

Here are just a few of the highlights:

- Fellowship Lounge updates

At their March meeting, the Trustees approved a proposal for refurbishing Fellowship Lounge with new furnishings, lighting, paint and décor. This space is usually the first that visitors and guests see and we want to be sure it is modern and welcoming. The funding will come from the Trustees budget along with a generous outside matching grant. You'll start to see the signs of change in just a few short weeks!

- April 14th Big Band show and dance

Do you enjoy great music and dancing? This is your night. Saturday, April 14, Ken Fourn and his musical friends will once again entertain us. There will be delicious desserts, great fellowship and an evening of entertainment. Invite your friends and come enjoy the fun! There is no charge, but donations will be accepted for a good cause.

- Policy Updates

Albion FUMC is blessed with big space, great employees and dedicated members. To ensure

April 2018

Gourmet Nuts	2
Leadership Listing	
Prayers	
Thank You	
Big Band Dance and Dessert	3
UMW News and Views	
Bits About the Trustees	4
Calendar	5

Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

we are being good stewards of all in our care, the Staff Parish, Trustees and Church Council have been working on creating and updating policies we need to ensure everyone who enters our building is safe, welcomed and cared for. They've adopted an Alcohol Use Policy, a Safe Sanctuaries Policy and a Donation Policy while looking at leases and updating our facility use agreement. It's a lot of detail work, but it keeps us moving forward.

- New Website
www.albionfirst.org will soon get an facelift. This month, we'll launch a new website that will hopefully be a little easier to use. Here, you'll be able to find information about upcoming events, committee activities and on-going issues as well as all those policies mentioned above. You'll know as soon as its ready to go.

Phew! That's a long list, and I didn't even mention all the financial work, the wonderful music program, the monthly senior luncheon, Piecemakers, UMW, the Baby Pantry and so much more. This church is truly blessed by all of you and your commitment to serving God and this community. Thanks for all that you do.

Pastor Leslee

Prayers

Bev Bentley,
Bonnie Bauman,
Heather Fourn,
Pastor Tom Hollowood,
Sherry Wyma, Hilda Ebbinghaus and Rev. Gary Wyma @ home

Jerry Rugg @ U of M Hospital, Ann Arbor
Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Gourmet Nuts

Nuts are still available in both Wesley Lounge and the church office. The cost is \$20.00 for a 36 oz. can.



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)	Barbara Rafaill plantgirl@rafaill.com
Staff-Parish Chair (Personnel)	Barbara Lange langehome.2@gmail.com
Finance Committee	Rick Lange langehome.1@gmail.com
Pastor	Leslee Fritz pastorleslee1@gmail.com
Missions Co-Chairs	John Williams Donna Williams
Memorial Chair	Carol Maynard
Choir Director	Drew Dunham
Music Director /Pianist	Jan Fourn
Administrative Assistant	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed cookies and sweets and assistance in set up, serving, and clean up for the reception following the celebration of life for Pat Brown on march 24th. The flowers were so beautiful. They were also present at the service at CRC Chapel on Sunday afternoon.



Finding Your Voice

I listen with delight to baby Kinsley's wordless but expressive vocal exclamations during choir and bell choir rehearsals. I am moved to tears as I hear the fervent speeches of teens crying out from the pain they feel for what they have witnessed in their young lives. I marvel at their articulate pleas for school safety, gun control, reason, and action in the legislatures of our nation. They have found their voices.

What does it mean to find one's voice? The "Message from the President" (UMW National President) in the March issue of "response" (p. 4) tells of Shannon Priddy's finding her voice by growing up with her mother, Dottie, an active United Methodist Woman in Albion and beyond; watching what UM Women did; becoming a UMW member and officer herself, modeling her voice "on the women I watched stand in faith and solidarity with the marginalized. Then I found my own voice, knowing I was not standing alone. I may not be the loudest voice, but because of United Methodist Women, I know I am not the only voice." How are you using your voice?

In March, the Ammerman Circle met to hear Donna Gaskell share some highlights of a trip she took many years ago with her daughter and her family to the Tree Tops of Kenya where they saw the wild animals up close. Sally Ammerman shared devotions including the above reference from "response" and a thoughtful story of a grandfather and grandson sharing "Red Shirt" days. The Evening Circle is very grateful for Annalisa Brigham's presentation of the well-researched and informative program (prepared by Bonnie Bauman and Annalisa) about the history of English hand bells and the history of the Albion FUMC hand bells. The pictures from

the past were especially interesting. Those present were given the opportunity to ring a bell.

Coming Events: **Gaswick/Moore Circle:** April 17th, 7 p.m. Hostess: Evelyn Gedman. "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" led by Polly Moore.

Ammerman Circle: April 19th, 1 p.m. Wesley Lounge. Mission Studies and Fellowship.

KEEP MAKING PEACE: April 14th, 9 a.m., University UMC, East Lansing.

Executive Team Meeting: April 19th, 2 p.m., Small Meeting Room.

Blessings always,
Donna Williams



Big Band Show April 14!

Don't Miss This! Saturday evening, April 14, from 6 to 9 pm, we will have the Big Band Dance and Dessert Buffet. This event will feature the *Sounds Appropriate* Big Band and is being co-sponsored by the Forks Senior Center. It's Free!! No tickets, No reservations required. Seating is First Come First Served. Hope to see you there!

Desserts sought for Big Band Show

This year's show has been shifted to a free event! We're expecting a bigger crowd, which of course means more refreshments, which - even if you don't bake - means we can sure use your help. Of course, we need desserts, but we also need cheese and crackers, fruit, punch ingredients, and plates and napkins.

We also are hoping to do a take-home sale or auction of 4-6 serving items (for example, a dozen cookies, small loaf cakes, 6" pies). If you can provide an item for this extra sale, it would be gratefully accepted as well.

You will see a sign-up sheet at church, but please also call me or email me to volunteer anything!

Thanks very much,
Jake Weber
629-4340
jweber@albion.edu

BITS ABOUT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

What does the Board of Trustees really do at Albion First United Methodist? After serving on this committee for almost a full 3-year term, I thought I would try to approach this question.

According to The Book of Discipline, which constitutes the law and doctrine of the United Methodist Church, the Trustees supervise, oversee, and take care of all the real property owned by the local church. The committee has to have at least three people, but no more than nine and the Pastor is not a voting member unless s/he is elected as a member.

In my own words, I would simply say that the Trustees act as homeowners or landlords dealing with everything that has to do with the church building and its contents and the parsonage. We manage such things as insurance, walls, floors, ceilings, the roof, gutters, appliances, furnishings, the heating and cooling systems, the locks on the doors, the security and fire systems, and plumbing. When things break or are broken into, we deal with it. If there is a leak in the attic on July 4th, someone has to figure out next steps. Bats in the belfry? Who you gonna call? Right, a trusty Trustee. Trustees are on call 24/7/365.

Even though we have Building Assistants (Albion College students who help us in return for an apartment) to help with locking and unlocking the doors and setting up for events, someone has to help them and oversee their responsibilities. That falls to the Trustees (with a lot of help from the administrative assistant!). And when there are no Building Assistants such as during the summer or spring vacation, the Trustees share the opening, closing, and checking work.

Trustees also oversee the approval of special events held at the church, their decisions

governed by a “Usage of Space Policy” and seeing to it that interested parties fill out “Facility Use Forms” and supply deposits and rental fees when required. In the last several years, the Trustees have also been responsible for renting of spaces in the church, providing leases and collecting rent. If someone wants to donate furniture to the church—Trustees are who to talk to. In fact, this spring we are developing a policy for just this purpose.

We are a busy bunch. We meet monthly and serve in between meetings as we work on day-to-day building problems (roofs that leak, peeling paint, leaking furnaces, aging furnishings) and safety issues such as developing disaster plans and inventories.

If you think you would enjoy working to maintain and improve the physical aspects of our church home and parsonage, this might be a committee to join in the future. Don’t hesitate to indicate your interest to Pastor Leslee or any of the Trustees before the annual Charge Conference when new committee members are voted upon. In the meantime, please send us any comments or questions you might have related to our buildings via the church office.

Barbara Raffall
Chair, Board of Trustees




Sunday Schedule:

9:00 Band
 9:30 Refreshments
 10:00 Worship
 11:00 Refreshments
 11:30 Sermon Discussion

Office Hours:

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

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 Easter Breakfast Sunday Schedule Communion	2 1p Lectionary Group 5p Spanish Class 5:30p WU Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	3 8a Biggby Bible Study	4 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	5 5p AC Intercultural Affairs Mixer	6 6p IVCF Worship	7
8 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 5:00p AC Chapel	9 12p First Church Seniors 5p Spanish Class 7p Boy Scouts	10 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition 7p Trustees	11 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	12 9:30a AALL Gathering	13 6p IVCF Worship 8p Rehearsal Dinner - Sims	14 6p BIG BAND DANCE AND DESSERT
15 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 5:00p AC Chapel	16 1:30p Entre Nous 5p Spanish Class 5:30p Women United 7p Boy Scouts	17 8a Biggby Bible Study 6p Boy Scouts Silver Beaver Award Cmte 7p UMW Evening Circle @ Gedman home	18 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5p AC PBK Initiation 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	19 12p  Blood Drive 1p UMW Afternoon Circle	20 6p IVCF Worship	21
22 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 5:00p AC Chapel	23 5p Spanish Class 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	24 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers	25 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	26	27 6p IVCF Worship	28
29 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 5:00p AC Chapel	30 5p Spanish Class 7p Boy Scouts			29		