



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224



Christmastime and thoughts of home just go together.

When Bing Crosby first crooned, “I’ll be Home for Christmas,” in 1943, he was singing about soldiers fighting a war half a world away. More than 70 years later, we still struggle with separation - the physical separation of miles and the emotional separation that’s all too common in our relationships. When we feel isolated and alone, we find ourselves longing for home and for family. These emotions can be especially poignant during the holidays.

Advent is also about a homecoming, the coming of Jesus Christ to redeem and renew our us and our world.

We will celebrate this special season by remembering all that God has offered us through the gift of Jesus Christ. We will “unwrap” something new each week that will lead us closer to the home that God desires for us to have.

Join us, Sundays in December.

Pastor Leslee

December 2017

Advent Luncheons	2
Christmas Eve Service	
Leadership Listing	
Poinsettias	
Prayers	
Special Music Treat	
Gourmet Nuts and Peanut Brittle	3
UMW News and Views	
Calendar	4

Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

Advent Luncheons

On Wednesdays at noon, in December, the Albion Ministerial Association is organizing Advent Luncheons. Dates and host sites are listed below. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

December 6	New Hope Worship Center
December 13	First United Methodist Church
December 20	Macedonia Baptist Church



Poinsettias

Again this year, poinsettias will adorn our worship space on Christmas Eve. If you would like to provide one or more, forms are available on the guestbook

stand in Wesley Lounge and in the church office. The plants are yours to keep following the service. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office. Cost is **\$10.00 per plant** and the available colors are red, white, and pink. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 3.**

Special Musical Treat

On Sunday December 17th we will be having a brass quintet headed by our own musicians Jon Sprandel on tuba, Ken Bauman on trumpet and Jan Fourn on organ. They will be joined by professional musicians Phillip Bickel on trombone, Adam Stowe on trumpet (from Jackson), and Eugene Wellman on baritone (also from Jackson). They will be playing the prelude, the offeratory, the postlude and accompanying the choir and congregation on all the hymns. Ken Fourn organized and will conduct the group. You don't want to miss this!!



Prayers

Bev Bentley, Ken Bentley, Sherry Wyma, Hilda Ebbinghaus and Rev. Wyma @ home

Allison Roesti @ Cornerstone, Coldwater

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

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 gwh2510@att.net
Staff-Parish Chair (Personnel)	Barbara Lange langehome.2@gmail.com
Finance Committee	Rick Lange langehome.1@gmail.com
Pastor	Leslee Fritz pastorleslee1@gmail.com
Choir Director	Drew Dunham
Music Director /Pianist	Jan Fourn
Administrative Assistant	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard



Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for:

***A Service of Lessons,
Carols and Candles***

December 24, 7:30 p.m.
Wesley Chapel

UMW and others: Do You Know What I Know?

On December 7, at 7 p.m., we will gather in Wesley Chapel for our 51st celebration of Ingathering! I was here all those years ago when the women decided it was time to replace our annual bazaar, time to de-emphasize the material things and busy-ness of the season, and to offer through the year, spiritual growth or bible study courses and prayer groups, which led us to dedicate our offering to special mission giving as we're told to do in Matthew 25.

Back then, we had a liturgical dance group that helped with the worship service. One year we had the Salvation Army Band. One year Peg Turner used all our church school children and we held it in Wesley Lounge in front of a roaring fire in the fireplace. One year we baked 20 dozen cinnamon rolls and 60 dozen cookies for food baskets for the community. Scripture for that year was James 2:14 - What good is it for someone to say he has faith if his actions do not prove it? Kind of appropriate!

We have expanded our list of groups we share our gifts with over the years and responded to new and current needs so that we are now giving to the following groups:

- Albion Interfaith Ministries
- House by the Side of the Road
- S.A.F.E. Place
- United Methodist Community House
(Grand Rapids)
- United Methodist Retirement Communities
- Foundation Benevolent Care (Chelsea)
- Women United
- Baby Pantry
- Healthy Babies Day
- Sisters Influencing Society
- Vision of Life Community Outreach Center

Let me close with a thought from the first year's meditation: "If we sow sparingly, we shall reap sparingly, if we sow bountifully, we shall reap bountifully." — what we reap is determined not just by the quantity of what we sow — but also by our spirits and expectations as we sow.

Hope we'll see you at this special event where we'll be blessed once again with the wonderful musical talent we have in this church. Do Come!

Blessings always,
Barb Stowell

Gourmet Nuts and Peanut Brittle

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



The aroma of **Peanut Brittle** is filling our building again! What a delicious scent...and taste! The cost is \$6.00 per container and it is available in Wesley Lounge and the church office.

*May peace
and plenty be the first
to lift the latch on your
door, and happiness
be guided to your home
by the candle of
Christmas.*

Traditional Irish Blessing




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

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday Schedule Communion	4 1p Lectionary Group 5:30p Women United Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	5 CARPET CLEANING 8a Biggby Bible Study	6 CARPET CLEANING 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 3p Peanut Brittle Mkg 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	7 UMW Ingathering	8	9
10 Sunday Schedule	11 12p First Church Seniors 7p Boy Scouts	12 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition 10a Piecemakers 7p Trustees	13 11a AMA Mtg 12p Lenten Luncheon 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 3p Peanut Brittle Mkg 6:30p Bell Choir	14 8a Albion College Student Affairs Workshop	15	16
17 Sunday Schedule	18 5:30p Women United 7p Boy Scouts	19 8a Biggby Bible Study	20 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	21 UMW Combined Circle	22	23
24 Sunday Schedule 7:30p Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 CHRISTMAS 	26 8a Biggby Bible Study	27 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	28	29	30 10a Cook Family Christmas
31 Sunday Schedule						