



# The SPIRE

**First United Methodist Church**

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

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

## We Have a Lot to be Proud Of

As I write this, I am watching Cindi Klingel and Larry Maynard load a sofa into his truck to help a newcomer to our community who has been homeless for several months. I can hear the sounds of workmen on the roof thanks to the hard work of Ed Sobie and our Trustees and a blood drive is beginning down the hall that will, undoubtedly, save lives. Barb Lange has already come and gone, hard at work on the Fellowship Lounge refresh project and later today, community leaders will meet here to discuss safety in our local public schools.

We make a difference in this community.

It is easy to lose sight of that truth in the chaos of our lives. It is easy to get caught up in worries and debates about money and committees and special projects. Those things matter, no doubt, but what matters more than anything is the simple truth that the people of our community experience God among us and through us.

Every time we help a family in need or feed a local senior, we share God's love. Each time the community gathers here for celebrations, memorial services and planning meetings, we extend God's welcome, and every time we reach out in service and mission, we spread God's grace a little further.

Yes, indeed, we have a lot to be proud of. It's important that we take a moment every now and then to take stock of all the good work happening in our midst ... right before we get back to work.

There are many opportunities this summer for you to be a part of the exciting things happening at Albion FUMC. Just a few are included below. Read on, and join in!

Pastor Leslee

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*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

## We Helped A Lot of Children!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, to everyone who supported the Buy a Child a Book donation drive. You stuffed a lot of money in that little pink box!

In less than a month, we raised \$334 to support Julie Bard, the wife of Bishop David Bard, the Michigan Conference of Deacons, the Scholastic Literacy Partnerships and Cokesbury who joined together to make reduced-price books available to children across Michigan who need them. With your generous support, we were able to purchase 91 books. Pastor Leslee will proudly deliver our donation and order form to Annual Conference this week.



## Vacation Bible School Returns

Calling all volunteers! Albion FUMC will host the community Vacation Bible School again this summer, August 6-9th. We will partner with St. James Episcopal Church, Lewis Chapel AME and other churches from around town.

Each evening, VBS begins with a simple supper for participants and then moves into educational and fun activities throughout our time together. This year's program will have a super hero theme, so it should be great fun for all involved.

Many volunteers are needed to make it run smoothly. We need group leaders, activity coordinators, kitchen help, registration workers, set decorators and many, many more hands. Whatever skill you have, the planning team can put it to use. A formal volunteer request is coming soon, but if you'd like to be a part of the fun either in planning or during the week itself, let Pastor Leslee know.

## Leadership Listing

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

## Prayers

Barb Stowell, ,  
Pastor Tom Hollowood,  
Jerry Rugg, Greg Metzler,  
Sherry Wyma, Hilda Ebbinghaus and Rev. Gary Wyma @ home

Jim Deal @ The Oaks, Battle Creek

Allison Roesti @ MediLodge, Howell

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea



When I recently returned from UMW Assembly 2018, “The Power of Bold”, I pondered how my attendance at these quadrennial gatherings has influenced the UM Woman I am today. In 1970, our family was preparing to move to Albion from Ann Arbor. The Women’s Society of Christian Service of Ann Arbor First UMC insisted on sending Vice President Luree Wright and me to Assembly, even though I could not finish my term as President. On the plane to Houston, TX, we met Barb Stowell and Joan Kile from Albion FUMC! (I already knew Barb from my college days at Albion.) I was awed by the power of the speakers, music, and encounters with Methodist women across the nation. I even had a one-on-one session with Malvina Reynolds, composer of “Magic Penny”, “Little Boxes”, “Turn Around”, and many more beloved songs. For the next 28 years my life as a wife, mother, and teacher kept me from quadrennial assemblies until I retired and attended the “Make Plain the Vision” 1998 UMW Assembly in Orlando, FL, with Dottie Kammer. I have been to every one since that time; 2002 Philadelphia, 2006 Anaheim, CA, 2010 St. Louis and 2014 Louisville with my daughter, Ellen, and 2018 Columbus. I must have known half of the women on the West Michigan bus this year, but I made three new friends; my roommate, another Donna, and a retired missionary to Haiti.

I was awed and inspired by the speakers: Nobel Peace Prize winner, Leymah Gbowee; Michelle Alexander and Marian Wright Edelman (one of Mary Margaret Moore’s “sheroes”). The Bible study focused on Mary, mother of Jesus, as a woman who knew the power of bold. On stage and in charge was Shannon Priddy, National UMW President, daughter of Dottie Priddy, Albion’s UMW president, 1979-80. Through prayer, scripture, dance, drama, and song our spirits and minds were stretched and inspired.

The interactive exhibits were challenging. Just try balancing your needs with a minimum wage on a real scale. Listen to a costumed woman tell her life story as a missionary in the Congo before the 20th century. All United Methodist Women are not little old ladies. There were babies, tweens, teens, college women, mature women, old women; females wearing sandals, athletic shoes, orthopedic shoes, high heels, in wheel chairs; wearing jeans, shorts, skirts, sweatshirts, tee shirts, dresses, tattoos, no jewelry, lots of jewelry. I heard many languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Haitian. Of the over 7,000 in attendance, I believe every state in the USA was represented. We are alike and different. We are challenged, concerned, and committed. I am one of many. I am still learning the Power of Bold. I plan to go to Assembly 2022 in Orlando, FL. (My daughter says she’ll push my wheel chair!) You can come, too.

Summer Refresher will occur in July. Mission U @ Albion College is July 11-14.

Blessings always,  
Donna Williams

## Albion FUMC at the Calhoun County Fair

On Saturday, August 18, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., our church will share our fellowship and musical offerings at the Calhoun County Fair. We will be performing on the community stage. If you are in the choir, if you would like to sing, if you are in the praise band, WE NEED YOU. Members of the congregation, we need your help for set - up, take- down and the greeting of those who wander in to hear us. Our goal is the share the message of Jesus Christ thru music and to take the opportunity to invite others to our Sunday morning worship service. August is a prime time for vacations, but this is a great change for us to share the amazing music we get to enjoy every week with many of our neighbors. Come join in the fun!

## Budget Update

Transparency is critical in every organization, including churches, so beginning this month, The Spire will include periodic budget updates. The Treasurer and Finance Committee produce quarterly reports, the highlights of which will be shared here. (Please note, the information below refers only to the operating budget which does not include the Trustees Committee's separate budget. Updates on Trustees spending will also be included from time to time.)

For the first quarter of 2018, giving was slightly below expected levels. This is not uncommon but can become a problem if it continues through multiple quarters. So, if you've made a pledge, please check to see if it's current.

First quarter spending, on the other hand, was below projections. Lower than expected costs at the parsonage and around the church helped off-set the lower-than-expected giving, leaving us just \$2,400 behind at the end of the quarter.

There are no secrets in church finances. If you have any questions about this information or anything else related to the budget, just ask Pastor Leslee or Rick Lange, the Finance Committee Chairperson.

Albion FUMC was recently recognized for our long partnership with the American Red Cross. Thanks to all those who work so hard to make this possible and all those who donate to save lives.

## Non-Cash Gift Policy

The Board of Trustees has adopted a new policy regarding the donation of noncash items. In short, the Trustees have determined that the church cannot accept unsolicited, non-cash gifts of any kind that are intended for use by or within the church. Persons wishing to donate items must contact the Board of Trustees in advance for an evaluation of the items to be considered before delivering any items to the church.

The Board of Trustees will evaluate the items and make a determination as to whether the items will be accepted or not at its next regularly scheduled board meeting.

This policy applies to any and all non-cash items such as, but not limited to, furniture, tools, photos, pictures, clothing, rugs, carpeting, decorative bric-a-brac, appliances, and medical equipment.

The full policy statement adopted by the Board of Trustees is available for review by any church member upon request by asking Cindi Klingel in the church office, Pastor Leslee, or any Trustee.

Barbara Raffail  
Trustee Chair






**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

# June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday Schedule	4 1p Lectionary Group 5:30p WU Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	5 8a Biggby Bible Study 7p Americorps Vista	6 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring	7	8	9 1p Gant Graduation Party 
10 Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30 Sermon Discussion	11 12p First Church Seniors 7p Boy Scouts	12 8a Biggby Bible Study 5:30 Albion Philanthropic Women 7p Trustees	13 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study	14 6p Junettenth Pastors Celebration	15	17
17 FATHER'S DAY Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 	18 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 7p Boy Scouts	19 8a Biggby Bible Study	20 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring	21	22	24 8a CAA Walk for Warmth
24 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	25 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	26 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers	27 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study	28	29 	30 7p Jesus Christ Superstar @ Tibbits Opera House