



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

Last month, I started my brief note celebrating that the signs of Spring were all around us. This month, I think that statement might actually be true!

It's an exciting time for our soon-to-be-graduates and for teachers and students looking forward to the end of another school year. Hopefully, we're all making plans to get out and enjoy all that summer in Michigan has to offer.

It's just as busy a time for the church, too.

In the month ahead, we will:

- Celebrate the 50th anniversary of the creation of the United Methodist Church
- celebrate Pentecost and welcome some more wonderful musicians to worship
- prepare for a very special Sunday in early June ... you'll hear more about this very soon!
- have an opportunity to help children in Michigan get access to books (read the article on page 2 of this newsletter for all the details), and
- we'll have our first special offering to pay our Ministry Shares.

I bet you were with me right up until that last bullet.

Most of us, no matter how long we've been a part of the United Methodist Church don't really understand what Ministry Shares are or why we pay them. They are a critical part of the overall operation of the church, so we'll be talking about them this month. Check out the brief overview in this newsletter that will get the conversation started.

Pastor Leslee

May 2018

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

Buy A Child A Book

The single greatest predictor of educational success is early exposure to reading and yet too many of our children don't have the access they need.

This summer, as a part of our Michigan Area Annual Conference, we will have the opportunity to help provide books to children across Michigan. Julie Bard, the wife of Bishop David Bard and a teacher, has teamed up with the Michigan Conference of Deacons, the Scholastic Literacy Partnerships and Cokesbury to give churches the chance to purchase reduced-price books for distribution.

Do you have \$3.96 to help a child? That's all it takes. \$3.96 will buy *The Wheels on the Bus* or *Pierre the Penguin, A True Story* or many other books for children from infancy through the 5th grade.

Here's how it works ... between now and late May, we collect money. We pick out the books we want, fill out the order form and I take it all with me when I head to Traverse City for Annual Conference.

A collection box for donations will be available on Sundays in Wesley and every day in the church office between now and Sunday, May 20th.

Book Calculator

1 book	\$ 3.96
2 books	\$ 7.92
3 books	\$11.88
4 books	\$15.84
5 books	\$19.80

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

Allison Roesti @ U of M Hospital, Ann Arbor

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea



UMW News

In 1902, a group of women associated with the United Methodist Church in Grand Rapids saw a need to provide assistance to families in the area. This was the start of the United Methodist Community House (UMCH). It has grown over the years to provide assistance to children, teenagers, and senior citizens. Our local unit has helped to support the UMCH and its activities through our contributions from Ingathering, our pledge to missions through the Albion District UMW, and through our collection of pop can tabs. By collecting thousands of tabs throughout the district, United Methodist Women helped pay for a new roof for UMCH.

In a recent letter written in the STAR (the Albion District newsletter), the executive director of UMCH wrote to thank the United Methodist Women for their support over the years. He said, "The deeding of the property to UMCH is a great blessing to us." They will continue to provide the services that were supported by the UMW for over 100 years, so that UMCH will continue to "thrive for another 100 years."

**United Methodist
Community House**
Increasing everyone's ability to
succeed in a diverse community.

Besides our support of UMCH, our recent Ingathering money has been given to organizations that do much the same work but are more local to Albion. We support **Vision of Life** and **SIS** helping girls, and **Safe House** providing shelter, and **United Methodist Retirement Fund** to assist seniors, **Healthy Babies Day**, and our own church assistance fund - **House by the Side of the Road**.

Our circles will be meeting in May.

Ammerman Circle will meet on May 17, at 1:00 p.m., in Wesley Lounge with a program on mission studies followed by a fellowship time. The Gaswick/Moore Circle will meet on May 15, at 6:00 p.m., for a potluck at the home of Carol Yeomans-Phelan. Please bring a dish to pass and your favorite scripture.

Then, looking forward, we will hold our "Summer Refresher" in July at the home of Carolyn Gaswick. No date has been set for that special day. Watch for an announcement closer to July.

Blessings always,
Alice Cook

Bring a Friend Sunday! - Enjoy Great Music! -- Help Build the Church!

On Sunday, June 3rd, we will have a special service of music and worship. It is the perfect opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors or co-workers to come and experience all that Albion FUMC has to offer.

SPRC has arranged for Living Truth 2, to lead us in worship that day.

Living Truth 2 is a husband and wife ministry team composed of Elroy and Tammie Coster (Tammie is our own Ken Bauman's sister). The duo is from Caro, Michigan. Between them, they can play many unique and contemporary instruments. They travel throughout Michigan, presenting their ministry of music, scripture, drama sketches, and personal testimonies.

SPRC is excited to share this unique opportunity with our congregation. They have special cards you can give to the people you want to invite and a gift will be waiting for them at church that day. Please make an effort to invite a friend to church. Enjoy the amazing music with us and help build our congregation.

Have questions or want to help with this special day? Talk to Barb Lange or Kathy Hutchins.

What the heck are Ministry Shares, anyway?

The United Methodist Church is a connectional denomination. That means we covenant to work together through a structure of conferences, districts and local churches to do what no one person, or one church, could do alone. Through this covenant, we multiply and share God's gifts with our local communities, our nation and our world.

The Ministry Shares we are asked to pay are our part of that covenant (our dues, if you will). The amount is determined by an average of our operating budget over the last few years. For 2018, Albion FUMC has been asked to contribute just over \$29,000.

These dollars support everything from the administrative costs of the denomination, to the seminaries and educational programs that train our leaders (yes, that includes me 😊) to the mission, outreach and evangelism that the United Methodist Church engages in around the world.

Albion FUMC has a long track record of paying 100% of our Ministry Shares, but it's no secret that we have had a few tight budget years recently. In 2015, this line item was removed from the budget and we have attempted to meet this obligation in other ways. Our goal is to restore this important item to the budget as soon as possible. In the meantime, we will continue seeking creative solutions to ensure we pay all of our bills, including this one.

On Sunday, May 20th, we will take a special offering to make our first payment toward our Ministry Shares. Please consider prayerfully what you might be able to contribute to support the work of the church in this way.

If you have any questions, just ask Pastor Leslee or Rick Lange for more information.

What's Happening in Fellowship Lounge?

A new look in Fellowship Lounge is in the works! Recently new light fixtures and a new color on an accent wall have been put in place. Furniture has been ordered along with a couple of new tables and lamps. Creative thought and crafty handiwork has gone into wall art which will take its place in due time.

This project actually began about four years ago when a grant match from the Olson Foundation became an opportunity. At that time, the Trustees rightfully gave priority attention to window and roof replacements. The time has at last arrived when Trustees can participate by matching a gift dedicated for the singular purpose of re-furnishing Fellowship Lounge. And so, a plan has been approved and the work has already begun.

Fellowship Lounge is the most public area of our church. Many community groups, local families, Boy Scouts, student groups and sometimes even the college reserve this space for large events. A fresh updated style in this room sets a tone for what we'd like the public to know about our church — that we are a solid, vibrant organization offering a quality experience for all.

The new look is designed to be comfortable and welcoming and to support a variety of activities, both large group and small. It is an invitation to our guests (and our members) to sit and stay awhile with us. Watch the step-by-step process as pieces of the plan come together.

Gourmet Nuts

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








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

May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8a Biggby Bible Study 4p Finance Committee	2 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	3 12p National Day of Prayer @ City Hall Steps	4 2:30p Albion Healthcare Alliance	5
6 Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30 Sermon Discussion	7 1p Lectionary Group 5:30p WU Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	8 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition 7p Trustees	9 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir 7p Church Council	10	11	12
13 MOTHER'S DAY Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 	14 12p First Church Seniors 7p Boy Scouts	15 8a Biggby Bible Study 7p UMW Evening Circle @ Yeomans-Phelan home	16 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	17 1p UMW Afternoon Circle	18 UMW QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY	19 UMW QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY
20 PENTECOST Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion UMW QUADRENNIAL ASSEMBLY 	21 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	22 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers	23 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	24 12p  Blood Drive	25	26
27 TRINITY SUNDAY Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 	28 MEMORIAL DAY 7p Boy Scouts 	29 8a Biggby Bible Study	30 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	31		