



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

Since we're four weeks into our walk with Moses (two more Sundays to go, so don't miss out!), you can imagine I've been reading a lot about him lately. Moses was a complicated man.

Saved as an infant, he was raised in the Pharaoh's household so he knew power and influence from an early age. But after stepping in to protect a Hebrew slave who was being beaten, Moses was forced to flee the only home he had ever known - a fugitive from the very ruler who was once family.

Moses rebuilt his life in a new place. He would never be rich and powerful again, but he married and started a family. Presumably, he had created a comfortable new life until one day while tending his family's sheep on the mountainside, he encountered God ... in a burning bush of all places.

Moses was lucky enough to have the one thing most of us long for - a direct encounter with the Almighty and clear instructions. God's request of Moses was unmistakable - go back to Egypt, confront Pharaoh and tell him to let my people.

Understandably, Moses was not exactly gung-ho about this call. Who would willingly go back to a place where he wasn't safe to confront a man who wanted him dead? Moses came up with plenty of excuses, but God never relented.

Most of us know the rest of the story. Moses went.

We may never hear God's voice calling to us from a burning bush, but God is calling us all the same. That tiny little voice that nudges us to connect with an old friend, make amends for a past wrong or support a worthy cause. Could that be God? Maybe it's a loud, insistent voice

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

that keeps us awake at night, calling us to live differently. Could that be God?

Perhaps the more important question is ... are we listening?

Join us again Sunday as we continue our journey with Moses, wrestling with the important lessons we can learn from one of the Bible's most interesting people.

Pastor Leslee

Worship in October

Moses: Lessons from an Unlikely Hero

October 1: Regret
Exodus 17:1-7

October 8: The Promised Land
Deuteronomy 34:1-12



October 15: Guest Pastor - David Habicht

Christian Sympathy

Long-time member and friend, Dan Seelye, passed away on Saturday, September 16, at Oaklawn Hospital of health complications. Please keep his family and loved ones in your prayers.

Thank You

Dear Albion FUMC,
We would like to thank Pastor Leslee for the hospital visit, and we would like to thank the church for the many thoughts and prayers during my surgery and recovery. We greatly appreciate the many delicious meals provided for us and the gifts of love offerings during this difficult time. We serve a great and mighty God and give Him all the praise for healing!

In Him,
Torrey and Sherry Wyma

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 Co-Chairs (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 Secretary	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard

Prayers

Kyle Wolf @ Borgess Hospital

Ken Bentley, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Rev. Wyma and
Jennifer Ammerman @ home

Allison Roesti @ Cornerstone, Coldwater

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

UMW News

In October, our United Methodist Women have a very special meeting when we honor and remember women from our church who have died during the past year. There will be a brunch at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 28, followed by the remembrance ceremony. This year, we celebrate the lives of Florence Reed, Nancy Held, Ruth Seelye, and Kaye Kemler Stenman. Invited to the brunch are friends and family of the women we remember. You are all invited.

This September 30, Carol Yeomans-Phelan, Sally Ammerman, and John and Donna Williams are planning to attend the Albion District UMW Annual Meeting which is being held at the Three Rivers United Methodist Church. Then on

October 21, the Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting will be held at Muskegon Central United Methodist Church. These are always interesting and educational meetings where we can learn about the activities of United Methodist Women in the district, conference, and national levels.

Circle meetings are off to a good start for the fall season. Polly Moore spoke to the evening circle about the Women's March in Washington, D.C. Their next program will be at Carolyn Gaswick's home with Carol Yeomans-Phelan presenting the program, "Live Your Dash."

The daytime circle met at the Forks Senior Center for a pizza party. Luanne Sommers spoke to the group about the Center and the facilities and programs provided. Their next program will be presented by Tom and Pat Brown on Climate Justice.

The purpose of the United Methodist Women is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts or mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. Come join us!

Blessings always,
Alice Cook



Healthy Babies Day

Thank you very much for your help and support of Healthy Babies Day. We particularly appreciate the use of storage space, advertising on the sign and doors, and the donations. **Again, many thanks!**

The Healthy Babies Day Committee

It's a Girl!

Julayne Brigham gave birth to a healthy baby girl, Kinsley Kay Brigham, on September 5, 2017. Kinsley weighed 7 lbs., 6 oz., and was 20 in. long. Both mother and daughter are doing wonderfully. **Congratulations!**



Church Picture Directory

The picture directory has been finalized and is available in two forms, electronic and printed. The electronic form will be emailed to the address on file for the household.

Each household will need to specify which

form(s) they want. This can be done by indicating your choice on a clipboard (preferred) at the beginning of the worship service on October 1 or 8, or by emailing the church office at:

albionfumc@gmail.com

Remember that this information is being shared for use within the life of the church. Please treat it with the same respect you would want for your personal information.



Upcoming Dates to Remember

Rev. Dale Miller will be officially welcomed to the role of Albion District Superintendent on **Saturday,**

October 14, 2017, at 3 p.m. The celebration will be held at Marshall United Methodist Church, 721 Old US 27 North, Marshall 49068. All are invited.

This year's **Church Conference** with DS Dale Miller will be held on **Sunday, October 29, at 11:30 a.m.** following worship. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Save the Date for 2017 **Hanging of the Greens.** We plan to kick off the Christmas Season by joyfully decorating our church with poinsettias, greens, wreaths and trees. Please save **Wednesday, November 29, beginning at 4:30 p.m.,** to join us as we share the task, sing and eat together. We have many places around the church to adorn with additional "greens." If you have Christmas decor you no longer use — especially garlands and poinsettias — please consider donating them to our church. Bring to the church office during the month of October so we can create a plan.

Advent is just around the corner. We will again be hosting an **Advent Luncheon** on **Wednesday, December 13, at 12 p.m.** in Fellowship Lounge. We hope to see you there.

"Musical History"

The Albion Historical Society is presenting "Musical History", a concert to be held at Freeway Church, 28900 B Drive North, Albion, Michigan, on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. Matt Hazel, of the Grand Rapids Opera Company, will be performing. Also, *House Blend*, a barbershop quartet, and the *Sojourner Truth Youth Choir* of Battle Creek will also be contributing musical performances.



Events in the Woods (Wesley Woods)

Fall Work Day Join us on **Saturday, October 7 2017, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.,** as we clean up the camp from summer activities, and prepare for "second season." A light breakfast will be served at 8:30am, with lunch at noon. Projects to adopt include working on window installation, trail clean-up, installing panels in bathhouse ceiling, privacy wall, and others. Hot chocolate and cider will be provided to keep you warm throughout the day. RSVP's required for meal preparation. For more information, and to sign up, please contact Eric Hoffman, Site Director at wesleywoodscampdirector@umcamping.org.

Spiritual Scrapbooking Retreat Colder weather is around the corner, but busy scrapbookers keep warm all night long! Join us for our first Spiritual Scrapbooking Retreat on **November 3-5, 2017.** Cost is \$89, and includes two nights lodging, 4 meals, and two snacks. Participants will be treated to a session of "Holy Yoga" from a local instructor, and a shopping trip to a local scrapbooking shop. Where else can you get away, scrapbook all day, have meals prepared for you, and stay in your jammies? For more information and brochure, contact Guest Services at guestservices@wesleywoodscamp.com. Registration Deadline is October 27.

A Tree for Florence

In keeping with a tradition of Sheldon Place, a tree has been planted in memory of former resident, Florence Reed. There will be a dedication of that tree on **Monday, October 23, at 11:00 a.m.** All are welcome.



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

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30a Sermon Discussion 4p Abundant Life Ministries Event	2 1p Lectionary Group 5:30p Women United Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	3 8a Biggby Bible Study 4p Worship Committee	4 8:15a BA Meeting 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal	5	6	7 9a Prayer Breakfast/ Conference
8 Sunday Schedule 11:30a Sermon Discussion	9 COLUMBUS DAY 7p Boy Scouts	10 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition Mtg 7p Trustees	11 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 4p UMW Exec. Team 5:30p SPRC Meetings 6:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal	12	13 9a AC Choral Festival	14 10a Kappa Delta Pancake Fundraiser 3p DS Dale Miller Installation 3p BSA Big Read
15 Sunday Schedule 11:30a Sermon Discussion	16 12p First Church Seniors Lunch 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 7p Boy Scouts	17 8a Biggby Bible Study 7p UMW Evening Circle	18 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 4p UMW Exec. Team 6:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal	19 12p Blood Drive 1p UMW Afternoon Circle	20	21 UMW Annual Meeting
22 Sunday Schedule 11:30a Sermon Discussion	23 7p Boy Scouts	24 8 am Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers	25 1:15 Sheldon Place Bible Study 4p UMW Exec. Team 4p Worship Music Mtg 5:30p SPRC Meeting 6:30p Bell Choir Rehearsal	26 5:30p Ministry Orididacy Exploration Mtg	27	28 9a UMW Brunch and Remembrance
29 9a SPRC/DS Meeting Sunday Schedule 11:30a Church Charge Conference	30 7p Boy Scouts	31 HALLOWEEN 8a Biggby Bible Study 7p AC Spooktacular				