



# The SPIRE

**First United Methodist Church**

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

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600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

I think we know each other well enough by now that I can be honest with you ... I am getting very nervous.

Next week, school begins again for me. I will make my first weekly trip to Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary on the campus of Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and I will begin the work of balancing the needs of the church and the demands of a full schedule of classes. Early each Thursday, I will travel to Garrett for a full day of classes. Most weeks, I will return to Albion on Friday. One weekend each month, I will stay in the Chicagoland area for an intensive class that meets all day Friday and Saturday.

I am used to juggling a full schedule. Years of working in politics has trained me well to manage long hours and heavy workloads, so I am not concerned about keeping up with all of the various demands on my time. But I am a bit of a perfectionist. OK, to be completely honest, I'm a major perfectionist. I will want to be the perfect pastor and the perfect student. I will never be either.

I don't believe that God ever calls us without equipping us for the task, so I know that together we will manage whatever curves or bumps lay ahead. But to alleviate my nervousness, I'd like to ask two things of you.

First, offer me a little grace if my school commitments ever complicate the times you need me to be your pastor.

And second, don't stop asking or expecting me to be your pastor. If you need to talk, need me to visit, need support or help, please ask.

Expect to be able to reach me via phone, email or text, even when I am at school. Expect high quality worship and organized office operations.

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*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

If you ever have questions about my schedule, where I am in the educational process, what lies ahead, or what it means for our church, please just ask. I am happy to provide any information you need.

Pastor Leslee

## Worship in September

### Moses: Lessons from an Unlikely Hero

Moses is the single most important character in the Hebrew Bible. His epic story - filled with danger and mystery, heroes and villains - is the defining tale of the Jewish people and lays the foundation for many of the events in the New Testament. For four weeks in September, we'll retell Moses' story. We'll learn about a man who despite his imperfections, fears and reluctance, answered a call from God to rescue his people from slavery. And along the way, we just might learn a little about ourselves and about the God who claimed us as God's own.

**September 3** Faithful Resistance  
Exodus 1:8-2:10

**September 10** Answering the Call  
Exodus 3:1-5

**September 17** A Chosen People  
Exodus 12:1-14

**September 24** Freedom  
Exodus 14:19-31



## 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
Staff-Parish Co-Chairs (Personnel)	Evelyn Gedman Barbara Lange
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

Ken Bentley, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Mary Slater,  
Rev. Wyma, Torrey Wyma, and Sherry Wyma @  
home

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Dan Seelye @ Arbor Manor, North 31, Spring  
Arbor

# UMW News

Hopefully we all had a good summer. Now we are ready for our fall and winter schedule for the Albion United Methodist Women. We have three circles in our group. You do not have to be a UMW Member to join us in any of our meetings. One circle usually meets in the evening. Their next meeting will be held at the home of Carolyn Gaswick, 1015 Haven Lane, Albion, on Tuesday, September 19, at 7:00 p.m. Polly Moore will be giving a presentation on her trip to Washington DC with the Women's March. Another circle will have a meeting on Thursday, September 21. We will meet in the Forks Senior Center (FSC) at 1:00 p.m., 101 N. Albion Street, Albion. I am going to place an order

with Pizza Hut; they will deliver and we will share our lunch at the center and then the Executive Director, Luann Sommers will give us a report on what the FSC has to offer us and show us the building. Our other circle is a Virtual Circle—meeting on the web, through newsletters and/or phone calls.

A number of us will be attending the UMW's Albion District Annual Celebration at Three Rivers UMC on Saturday, September 30. There are about 60 churches in the Albion District, West Michigan Conference. It is always special to meet with members from these different churches. If you don't already know this, we are becoming one Conference, the West Michigan Conference and the Detroit Conference will be the Michigan Conference. It will be interesting to see where they will draw the boundary lines and what "district" we will be in next year. Whatever district it is, I am sure we will enjoy and appreciate all of our United Methodist Women.

Back in July, the "Mission U" event was held here at Albion College. Donna and John Williams and I attended this wonderful 3-day program. They will be meeting again here at Albion College next summer. It was especially nice for the three of us to sleep in our own homes with air conditioning. The other attendees stayed in the college dorms. No air conditioning. I would like to invite you to attend this special program next summer here in Albion.

Lastly I would encourage all of you to access the web page for our Conference News. Our new

Bishop, David A. Bard, and other members of the Conference have daily or weekly articles on this site. [www.michiganumc.org](http://www.michiganumc.org). On this site you can also subscribe to MI Connect to receive weekly emails of the conference newsletter.

Please make note of our special Brunch and Remembrance program scheduled for Saturday October 28th at 9:00 a.m., when we honor the memories of members and loved ones who joined the Church Triumphant during the past year.

For more information about our local UMW, circle meetings, the District Annual Celebration in Three Rivers or the Brunch and Remembrance event, Contact one of our members (see list below) or call the church office at 517-629-9425.

## UMW Executive Leadership Team

Donna Williams	Barb Stowell
Polly Moore	Alice Cook
Amy Plassman	Darlene Chisholm
Carolyn Gaswick	Carol Maynard
Carol Yeomans-Phelan	Sally Ammerman

Thanks for your attention to this UMW report. As a leader in the Albion UMW, also your church Treasurer and your Lay Member to Conference please accept my thank you for sending me to the Annual Conference for the past eight years.

The next Executive Team Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20th at 4 pm.

Blessings always,  
Sally Ammerman

## Help Support Healthy Babies Day!

The 7th annual Healthy Babies Day is planned for September 23rd at the Albion Community Center. This free event is for parents who are expecting and/or with children up to 18-months-old and provides a variety of helpful information and services including flu shots and lead testing, nutrition education, breastfeeding resources and much more.

All participants receive a variety of baby essentials, including diapers and wipes. We've agreed to be a collection center for these supplies. If you'd like to help support this important project, **please consider donating baby wipes and/or diapers (any brand, any size)**. Just drop them off in church office any time before September 8. Thanks for supporting the littlest members of our community.

**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

# September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday Schedule Communion	4 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7p Boy Scouts	5 8a Biggby Bible Study 4p Worship Committee 5:30p Women United Leadership	6 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5p AC Intercultural Dinner 6:30p Bell Choir	7 5:30p Ministry Candidacy Exploration	8 1p CPR Training	9
10 Sunday Schedule	11 12p First Church Seniors 7p Boy Scouts - Court of Honor	12 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition 11a Philanthropic Women Luncheon 7p Trustees	13 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	14	15 2p Albion Health Care Alliance 5p Albion High School Alumni Association Dinner	16
17 Sunday Schedule	18 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 7p Boy Scouts	19 8a Biggby Bible Study 7p UMW Evening Circle	20 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 4p UMW Executive Team 6:30p Bell Choir	21 12p Red Cross Blood Drive 1p UMW Afternoon Circle	22	23
24 Sunday Schedule	25 7p Boy Scouts	26 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers	27 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p SPRC Meeting 6:30p Bell Choir	28	29	30 Albion District UMW Annual Celebration@ Three Rivers UMC 1p Abundant Life Ministries Workshop
31 Sunday Schedule 4p Abundant Life Ministries Worship						