



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

"O, Wow! August is going to be a busy month."

That's how I began my letter to you last month. And wow, was I right! August was indeed a fast-paced, chaotic, exhausting month filled with the expected and the unexpected of life in the church.

We welcomed more than 100 children, teens and adults to our Community Vacation Bible School, for a week of laughter, singing and learning about how to be Super Heroes for God. Our musicians entertained fair-goers, community residents cast their primary ballots and the Boy Scouts served up their annual Pig Roast. In between, meetings, trainings and planning was taking place throughout the building. It was a remarkable month of serving God by serving our neighbors.

In the midst of the joy-filled laughter and the hard work, we were confronted with the reality of Ed Sobie's arrest. It was a jarring reminder that the world we are called to serve is a complicated and heartbreaking place. At this point, we don't know much beyond the allegations that have been made. We continue to cooperate with law enforcement and to pray for everyone involved. I am grateful for the concern you have shown for the church but more importantly, for your willingness to embrace and support one another as we all work to make sense of this difficult situation.

With September upon us, we will resume our school year schedule. The choirs will be back in worship (yeah!) and I will be back in school (ugh!). We will kick it all off with a special service on September 9th (see inside for more info.) as we continue to seek ways to love and serve God by loving and serving our neighbors.

Pastor Leslee

September 2018

Leadership Listing	2
Mark Your Calendar	
Prayers	
UMW News and Views	
Friends and Family Sunday	3
September Sermon Series	
Vacation Bible School	
Albion FUMC at the Calhoun County Fair	4
Calendar	5

Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

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

Mark Your Calendars

Our annual Church Conference will be Saturday, October 13, at 9:30 a.m., here at the church.



Church conferences will be done a little differently this year in our new district, so stay tuned for all the details.

Prayers

Kathy Hutchins, Scott Tuthill, Elaine Rice, Becky Picard, Barb Stowell, Missy Wyss, Greg Metzler, Pastor Tom Hollowood, Phil Hostetler, and Hilda Ebbinghaus @ home

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Calhoun County Jail

Allison Roesti @ MediLodge, Marshall

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea



UMW Upcoming Events

Gaswick/Moore Circle Meeting

Tuesday September 18th @ 7:00 pm.
Location: Please note the change of location. This meeting will be held in Wesley Lounge instead of at Dottie Kammer's home.

Program: Iceland Adventure
Presenters: Alice Cook and Barb Stowell

Ammerman Circle Meeting

Thursday September 20th @1:00 pm.
Same location and program as listed for the Gaswick/Moore Circle above. Thank you in advance to Alice and Barb for presenting their program at our circle.

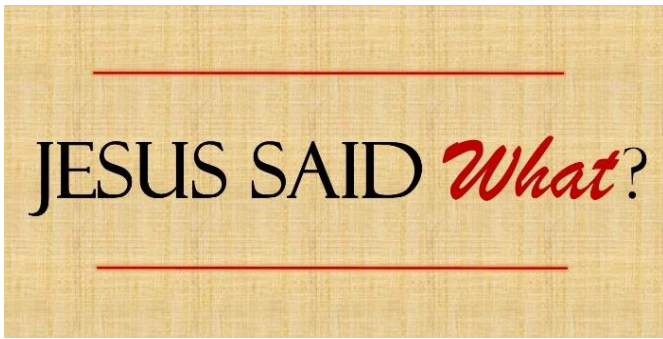
UMW Team Planning Meeting

This first planning meeting for the year 2019 will be held in the Small Conference Room, Room # 104 on Thursday September 25th at 2:00 pm.

A Look Back... UMW Mission U - held in July
Donna and I both attended this wonderful event here at Albion College. We feel special because we go home to our own homes with air conditioning in the evenings. Donna will talk a few minutes in her circle and I will share in my circle about our time at this event.

Blessings always,
Sally Ammerman

UMW News



September Sermon Series ... Jesus Said *What?*

What did Jesus mean when he said the first shall be last? How can we deny ourselves in order to follow him? Should we really cut off our hand if it causes us to stumble?

For the five Sundays in September, we'll delve into some of Jesus' more challenging statements. What was he trying to tell his disciples and how can his words help us live faithfully in our world? Join us.

Vacation Bible School brings community together

It was a whole lot of work ... but to watch more than 100 children, youth and adults come together for a week of learning about God's love made it worth the effort. We laughed, learned, sang and perfected our superhero poses. But more important than any of that ... we spent a week reminding the children in our community that they are loved.

VBS would not have been possible without the hard work of dozens of volunteers. Perhaps you made cookies, constructed the set, helped with crafts, drove a van, served dinner or played in the nursery. However you contributed, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. You showed God's love to the children of our community.

Friends & Family Sunday - September 9

We will kick-off our Fall programming with a special Family & Friends service on Sunday, September 9. Come and enjoy the food, fellowship and a worship service with fantastic sounds of Dixieland. It's a great opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to come and experience all that Albion FUMC has to offer.



Calhoun County Fair-Goers Experience Albion FUMC Music

Visitors to the Calhoun County Fair on Saturday, August 18 got to experience the remarkable talent of Albion FUMC musicians. More than 30 singers, ringers and musicians entertained for close to two hours. Our handbell choir kicked off the program that included choir anthems, great Dixieland sounds and a praise band led by the vocal talents of Annalisa Brigham.

Thanks to Ken Fourn for organizing the fun afternoon, to everyone who offered their talents and to all of you who came out to cheer them on.




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 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30 Sermon Discussion	3 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	4 8a Biggby Bible Study	5 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	6 9:30a AALL Assembly	7 8:30a Healthy Babies' Day Committee	8
9 Family & Friends Sunday Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	10 10a Newsome Mentor- ing Meeting 2p HBD Committee 5:30p WU Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	11 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Sttering Cmte 11:30 Albion Philan- thropic Women	12 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	13 7p Trustees	14	15 11a HBD Event @ Alternative High School 1:30p HBD Cmte
16 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 2p Lebron Baby Shower	17 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	18 8a Biggby Bible Study 7p UMW Evening Circle	19 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	20 12p + Blood Drive 1p UMW Afternoon Circle	21 5:30p Albion High School Alumni Association Awards Banquet	22
23 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	24 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	25 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers 2p UMW Executive Team	26 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	27	28	29
30 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion						