



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

“Do not be alarmed ... He has risen.”

Mark 16:6 (NIV)

Friends,

Spring is upon us and, once again, we prepare to celebrate our risen savior with joy and exultation. Easter and Springtime just seem to go together, like chocolate and peanut butter. This year, the dual reminders of new life seem like true healing balm for our weary souls.

While we're not at the end of this public health crisis yet, the ability to gather a little more feels like a breath of fresh air. God brings new life in powerful ways. “See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness ...” (Is 43:19)

God is, indeed, offering us a new way ... are we willing to follow? Or are we more like Jesus' contemporaries who wanted a messiah to burst in as a conquering hero, finally eliminating all that threatened them. Are we ready to welcome a God who still longs to meet us in our weakness and our vulnerability in order to comfort, strengthen, and equip us to comfort and strengthen others? My prayer for all of us in this Holy Week is that we are truly ready to live in the truth that God loves us and is always with us, drawing the hope and the strength we need to persevere and flourish.

Blessings to you and your family this Easter season and in all the days ahead.

Peace,
Pastor Leslee

April 2021

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

Nursery Re-Opening on Easter Sunday

Our children have been missing Miss Mary and Miss Noel. Beginning this Sunday, they will be back! Our church nursery will be open during worship with additional protocols in place. Additional hand-washing and sanitizing will help ensure everyone's safety. Masks will not be required for children under age 11, but mask wearing is encouraged whenever possible. (please remember, the CDC does not recommend masks for children under 2 due to increased choking and suffocation risks.) If your child is not feeling well (fever, stuffy nose, cough, etc.) please do not bring them to church or to the nursery. If you have any questions about nursery policies, please let Pastor Leslee know.



Church Looking for Tech Help

Know someone who loves to create videos and is a whiz on social media? We may just have a job for them. At their last meeting, the Finance Committee supported Pastor Leslee's request to hire technical support to assist her in designing, recording and producing all of the virtual worship that has helped to keep us connected these last 12 months.

Pastor Leslee and the Staff Parish committee are putting the finishing touches on the job description and will soon be looking to hire. This support for Pastor Leslee (and for Pastor Joel once he arrives) is possible thanks to a generous gift recently made to the church. If you have questions, or know someone who might be perfect for this part time role, let Pastor Leslee know.

Leadership Listing

| | |
|--|---|
| Lay Leader | Sharon Hostetler shostetler@albion.edu |
| Church Council Chair | Mark Robison majerobi@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Ellen Wilch ellenwilch408@gmail.com |
| Trustees Chair (Building & Property) | Gary Harrison gwh2510@att.net |
| Staff-Parish Chair (Personnel) | Steve Noble steven.noble820@gmail.com |
| Finance | 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 |
| Office Manager | Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com |
| Housekeeper | Lynn Markovich |
| Custodian | Larry Maynard |



Prayers

James Cook, Marilyn Hennon,
Jerry & Sue Rugg (Sprinkle), Ron
Rice, Lynne Baldwin, Julia Landon,
Tom Hartwell, Jasmine Luce, Kelly
Wilder, Marilyn Knibury, Ken Bentley,
Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva Rottenbiller, and Pastor
Tom Hollowood @ home

Barb Stowell, Missy Wyss @ Maplewood,
Marshall

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Chippewa Correctional
Facility, Kincheloe

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Save the Date! Farewell Party on Sunday, June 13th

We still have a little time to enjoy having
Pastor Leslee with us. But before we know it,
we'll be saying our final farewells and wishing



her well on her
next
assignment.
Sunday, June
13th, will be
Pastor Leslee's
final worship
service with us.
Save that date
and following
the service,
we'll have a
box lunch social
event on the
lawn (weather
permitting). We

hope you will join us to say goodbye and share
a final moment with a pastor who has lead our
congregation through unprecedented times,
and enjoy social time together as we embark
on a new journey in the life of our church.



Plans Underway for Sunday School Launch ... You Can Help!

Our little ones are growing up and we want to
be ready to welcome more children into our
Albion FUMC family!

Plans for a colorful, lively and welcoming
Sunday School room are underway in the
former district office near the choir room on
the second floor. We want this room, for kids
who have grown beyond the needs of a
nursery, to offer a church experience that is
fun and educational. Classroom furniture,
bulletin boards, puzzles, games, craft supplies
and creative activities that we already have
will give us a good start.

However, newer books and activities that
encourage social and creative engagement are
needed. All you grandmas and grandpas ... have
you collected a few play things for visiting
grandchildren that they've quickly outgrown? If
you are willing to part with books in good
condition, building/manipulative toys, or play
things that encourage social and creative
growth please bring them to the church office.
We are especially interested in an electric
keyboard for singing, music resources like
CD's, singalong music, and big comfy cushions
for floor sitting. If you would like to help but
have nothing in your home to donate, please
consider a special financial gift to make a
bright new Sunday School room possible.



UMW Update

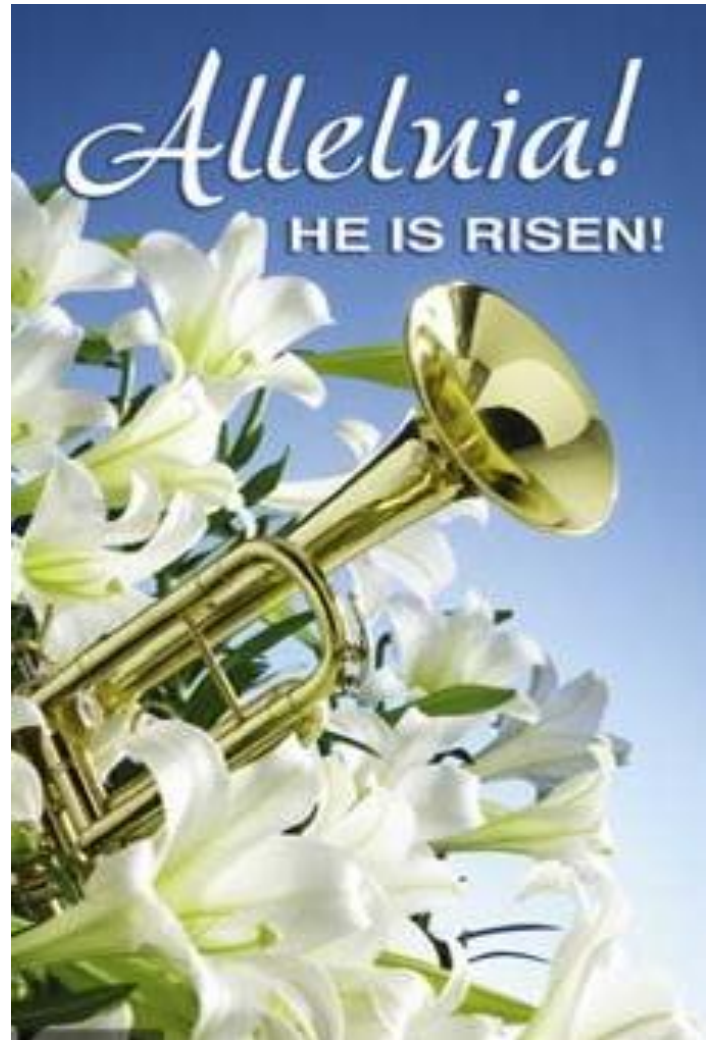
Are You Ready? Have you had your jab, your shot, or your poke? Will you still wear your mask? Can you stand sitting socially apart one more time? OK. No more questions and playing with words we've

become so accustomed to in the past year. We are going to try to have an in-person meeting for our April UMW gathering.

Gather safely in Fellowship Lounge on **Tuesday, April 13th at 1 p.m.** Steve Noble will share his knowledge and his work to answer our concerns and questions. "I've put my recycling out. Where does it go? What happens to it once it gets there? Why should I bother?" Just in case you don't feel comfortable meeting with us in person, we will try to share the meeting virtually. So we can set up enough chairs properly spaced, it would be helpful to reply to the church office by April 12th.

This meeting is open to all interested persons. It's our world. We are in it together.

Blessings always,
Donna Williams and Anne Lake



Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 12:30 pm

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday

Worship 10:00 am

April 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 4 EASTER SUNDAY 10a Worship-Communion  | 5 7p Scouts BSA 158 | 6 | 7 | 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY 8a Bible Study 3p Lent Small Group 7p Worship  | 2 GOOD FRIDAY 10:30a Tennant Hall Decorating 12p Virtual Community Worship  | 3 |
| 11 10a Worship | 12 5p Board of Ordained Ministry 6:30p Scouts - Webloes 7p Scouts BSA 158 | 13 1p UMW Circle Meeting  | 14 3p Big Read Study Hall | 15 8a Bible Study 12p Blood Drive  | 16 | 17 8a CCHD/Oaklawn COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic  |
| 18 10a Worship | 19 7p Scouts BSA 158 | 20 | 21 3p Big Read Study Hall | 22 8a Bible Study 5:30p Phi Beta Kappa Initiation  | 23 | 24 |
| 25 10a Worship | 26 6p SPRC 7p Scouts BSA 158 | 27 5p Food Distribution  | 28 3p Big Read Study Hall | 29 8a Bible Study  | 30 | |