



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

Friends,

As we move into the dog days of summer, this sweet story seemed appropriate. I wish I knew the author so I could give credit where credit is due.

Last week, I took my children to a restaurant. My 6-year-old son had asked if he could say grace. With head bowed, he said "God is good, God is great, thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert, and liberty and justice for all, AMEN".

Along with laughter from other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark "that's what's wrong with this country...kids today don't even know how to pray, asking God for ice cream!"

Hearing this, my son burst into tears and asked, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, an elderly gentleman approached our table. He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my son asked. "Cross my heart," said the man. Then, in a 'stage whisper,' he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing) "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Of course, I bought my kids ice cream after our meal. My son stared at his sundae and then picked up his sundae, and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "This is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes, and my soul is good already."

August 2019

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

How are things with your soul today? Are you sharing your ice cream with those who need it, spreading a little hope and love? I certainly pray that you are. On these beautiful summer evenings, you might just find me at Frosty Dan's. Come by and I'll share a little ice cream with you.

Pastor Leslee

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 Co-Chairs (Personnel)	Steve Noble steven.noble820@gmail.com Andrew French andrew.french.albion@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
Administrative Assistant	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard

Prayers

Hilda Ebbinghaus, Rob Dinniny, Fred Roesti, Barb Stowell, Greg Metzler, Dwight Nearnberg, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Missy Wyss @ Maplewood Assisted Living, Marshall

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Egeler Center, Jackson

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH



Save the Dates

It's that time of year once again. Church Conference is almost here! Please note the dates and times below and plan to be a part of this important process.

SPRC Only

Thursday, September 19, 7:00 p.m.
North Parma United Methodist Church
11970 Devereaux Rd, Parma

Congregation

Saturday, September 28, 10:00 a.m.
Concord United Methodist Church
119 S Main St, Concord

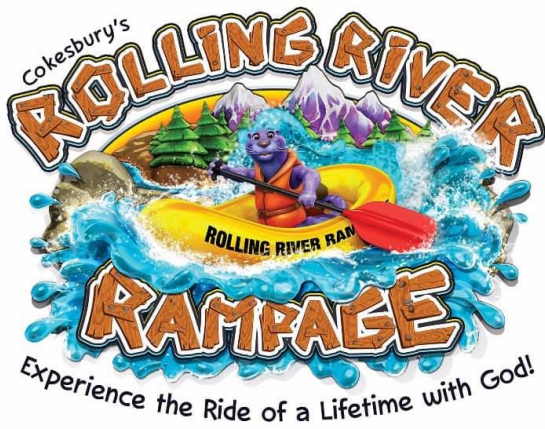
Church Picnic/Potluck

Bob and Bobbie Armstrong will be hosting a summer church picnic/potluck on **Sunday, August 4 at 1:15 p.m.**, at their cottage on Marble Lake The address is:



**138 Highbanks
Quincey, Michigan**

Please plan to bring lawn chairs, drinks, and a passing dish. Hope you can join in the fun.



Final Call—Volunteers Still Needed

VBS Will Take Area Kids on a River Rafting Adventure. You're Invited, Too!

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.
Isaiah 43:2

In just a few days, we depart on another exciting VBS adventure ... this time it's a ride down the rolling river where we'll discover adventure, acceptance, peace, rest and joy.

Already, our craft team has been hard at work putting together the décor and planning some of the fun activities for the kids to enjoy.

But we need your help!

Crafts, decor, dinner, storytelling, drivers, registrars and leadership are just a few of the areas where you can be involved.

We kick off this year's adventure on Monday, August 5 at 5:00pm. VBS runs Monday through Thursday, from 5-8pm each night. We'll welcome more than 100 area children to the church that week, so we need lots of help. Consider where you can lend a hand and join in the fun. Please call the church office to sign up!



Healthy Babies Day 2019

This year's event will be held on September 14, 2019, at the Albion Community Center. It is an opportunity to help expecting parents and parents of newborns up to 18-month-old children. They are collecting diapers - small packages in sizes 5 and 6 - and wipes. If you are able to contribute, donations can be dropped off in the church office.

Women United Sale

The Women United garage sale will be on August 3. Please consider dropping by during on Saturday to peruse all the items for sale. You might just find that hidden treasure you've been wanting while supporting a good cause at the same time. Happy Shopping! (And remember to start saving those items you're ready to part with for next year's sale. Collections will start again soon.)




Sunday Schedule:

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

August 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9a Zone 1 Clergy 6p Final VBS Planning <div>Women United Sale Setup</div>	2 	3 8a Women United Sale
4 Sunday Schedule Communion 1:15p Picnic/Potluck @ Armstrong Cottage	5 5:30p VBS	6 8a Biggby Bible Study 5:30p VBS	7 5:30p VBS	8 5:30p VBS	9 	10
11 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	12 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	13 8a Biggby Bible Study 9a SAP Coalition 4p Finance 5:30p Church Council	14 	15 9:30 AALL Board 12p  Blood Drive @ St. Paul Lutheran		17 10a Healthy Babies Day Work Bee 2p Healthy Babies Day Committee
18 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	19 8a AC - Tour Guide Training 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	20 8a Biggby Bible Study 8a AC - Tour Guide Training	21 8a AC - Tour Guide Training	22 2p UMW Executive Team Meeting	23 2p Albion Health Care Alliance	24
25 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	26 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	27 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers	28 	29 	30 	31