



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

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Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord!

Last week, I had to make the difficult decision to, once again, suspend our in-person indoor worship services. As challenging as this is for all of us, I am committed to ensuring we have lots of safe, creative ways to be the church together, even when we are apart.

On the next page, you'll find an overview of our August schedule. I know it goes without saying that all plans these days are subject to change without much notice. With the impending return of Albion College students, it is impossible to predict what the weeks ahead will bring for our community and our church. I pray that you will continue to approach this uncertainty with grace, respect and care for one another.

In addition to the activities included on my overview, Lois Fennimore has stepped forward to help coordinate a calling program to ensure we are staying connected. You may have already heard from Lois about being a "caller." If you haven't and would like to offer a little time to connect with a few of your fellow congregants from time to time, just let Lois know. Thank you, Lois, for offering your gifts to this important ministry.

Blessings,
Pastor Leslee

August 2020

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

August at Albion FUMC

Challenging times call for creativity in worship and fellowship. Creativity is the word of the month in August. Consider being a part of some of these opportunities.

Sunday, August 9 Virtual Worship
with Zoom Fellowship at 2:00 pm
(NOTE THE DIFFERENT TIME FOR ZOOM)

Wednesday, August 12, 6:30 pm
Communion Service (outdoors) @ Church
This short service will bring us together to celebrate Holy Communion as a community of faith. Pastor Leslee will offer a short reflection and lead us through this holy ritual.

Sunday, August 16 Virtual Worship
with Zoom Fellowship at 11:00 am

Monday, August 17, 6:00 pm
Inaugural Porch Supper at Gaswick's House
Small group fellowship with a BYO meal and chair. Dennis and Carolyn Gaswick will host. Interested in participating? Sign up by emailing Pastor Leslee or calling the church office. Limit of 8 guests per supper. More will be added to the schedule.

Sunday, August 23, 10:00 am
Special Music Sunday (outdoors) @ Church
Gather in fellowship and enjoy the worship in song this Sunday as we enjoy some of the music that gives expression to our faith.

Sunday, August 30 Virtual Worship
with Zoom Fellowship at 11:00 am

Don't see what you're looking for on the list? If you're interested in participating in a Zoom Bible Study, let Pastor Leslee know. She'll start one if there are interested participants. Don't

forget our Food Hub distribution is Tuesday, August 25. Volunteers are always welcome, and Pastor Leslee is talking with the college about how we can offer a little bit of welcome to Albion College students as they quarantine after arriving on campus. Stay tuned for more details about that possibility!

Leadership Listing

Lay Leader	Sharon Hostetler shostetler@albion.edu
Church Council Chair	Mark Robison majerobi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sally Ammerman sallya@wowway.com
Trustees Chair (Building & Property)	Barbara Rafail plantgirl@rafail.com
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
Administrative Assistant	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard

Church Finances Impacted, but Holding On

The effects of months of disrupted schedules and economic uncertainty is impacting all of us. The church is no exception. But, thanks to your continued faithful giving and a little outside help, there's no cause for concern.

Through the first half of 2020, the church received a little more than \$82,000 in pledged and non-pledged giving. That's a remarkable total, given that we were together for just 12 of the 26 Sundays in those months. It is, however, more than \$10,000 below what was expected.

Thankfully, the disruption in "normal" church operations has also meant lower expenditures than budgeted. Costs have run approximately \$16,000 below expectations and the church has continued to pay all staff thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program loan received in April. (note that we are currently completing the required application to have this loan forgiven under the provisions of the federal law.)

The upshot of all these numbers is that the church is holding on through these unprecedented times thanks to your continued generosity and the stewardship of our financial leaders. While we are apart, please continue to drop your pledge checks in the mail or the mailbox inside the Oswego Street doors. Your faithfulness is greatly appreciated.

Prayers

Jean Zander, Lynne Baldwin, Ron Rice, Dave Seely, Tom Hartwell, Jasmine Luce, Greg Metzler, Kelly Wilder, Marilyn Knibury, Susan Conner, Julia Landon, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva Rottenbiller, Ken Bentley, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Barb Stowell @ Maplewood, Marshall

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Chippewa Correctional Facility, Kincheloe

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea



Do Be a Kitchen-Do-Bee

All kitchens over time need deep cleaning and sorting. Our church kitchen is no different! And, a refresher on Health Department standards is more important now than ever. If you are able and interested in being part of a Kitchen-Do-Bee Team, please come to a training session and work bee on Friday, September 11, 9 - noon and/or Tuesday, September 15, also 9 - noon. A sandwich lunch will be shared at the end (assuming Covid-19 threat is reduced). Please let the church office know if you can be there. Bring your rubber gloves, a mask, a cleaning pail and rags, and wear your scrubby clothes.



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

August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Virtual Worship	3 9a Election Setup	4 ELECTION DAY  7a Primary Elections 4p Finance Committee	5 9a Election Teardown	6	7	8
9 Virtual Worship 11a Furniture Moving - Trustees 2p ZOOM Fellowship	10	11	12 6:30p Outdoor Communion Service	13 6:30p Trustees	14	15
16 Virtual Worship 11a ZOOM Fellowship	17 5:30p SPRC 6p Porch Fellowship @ Gaswick's	18	19	20	21	22
23 10a Special Music Worship@Church	24 5:30p SPRC	25 3p Food Hub Distribution	26	27	28	29
30 Virtual Worship 11a ZOOM Fellowship	31					