



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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Albion, MI 49224

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How could we sing the Lord's song...in a foreign land? Psalm 137:4

I've been thinking about exile a lot lately. Not only exile, but Exile. The Babylonian Exile is the name given the removal of the upper strata of the Hebrew people and their relocation to Babylon. It involved the destruction of the temple. All of a sudden, the chosen people found themselves in a foreign land, made to serve foreign masters, having to figure out how to worship God when God's own house had been demolished.

We too have struggled to figure out how to sing the Lord's song in unusual circumstances. I'll be honest. I was very ready to further return to normal. To begin to add more into our service. To possibly move back to Wesley Chapel. But now with the Delta variant, it looks like we will again have to be flexible, to put our plans on hold.

This why I've been thinking about exile, and specifically how the people of God responded to exile. I think they responded in two ways:

1. Lament. They acknowledged that this situation is awful. No one knows how this is going to work out. It sucks, and its ok to say that it sucks.
2. Resilience. The people did not give up worship of God. But they also didn't worship in the exact same way. They figured out what was essential to their faith and found ways to be the chosen people even in a foreign land.

In this time of continued change, as we continue to struggle through this pandemic, let us continue the tradition of the people of God. Let us lament. Let us find the core of our faith

August 2021

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

and figure out how to be God's people even with a mask on.

Peace,
Pastor Joel

Current Message Series and Schedule

Pastor Joel is exploring the topic of: "Living as Christians in a Complex World."



August 1	Using our gifts to work together as the Body of Christ
August 8	Rev. Dale Miller leading worship
August 15	Turning toward God from unhealthy habits
August 22	Preparing ourselves for work in a post-Christian world
August 29	Putting our words into action
September 5	New Topic: Navigating the Transitions of Life

Guest Pastor to Share the Good News - Sunday, August 8

On Sunday, August 8, Rev. Dale Miller will lead us in worship and bless us with his insights.

Prayers

Ray Campbell, Terry Bobzien, Fred and Shelly Wilder, Marilyn Hennon, Julia Landon, Tom Hartwell, Kelly Wilder, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva Rottenbiller, Joe Jackson, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Miriam Daly @ Kresge Center, UMRC, Chelsea
Barb Stowell, Missy Wyss @ Maplewood, Marshall

Lynne Baldwin @ Advantage Living and Senior Care, Battle Creek

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Chippewa Correctional Facility, Kincheloe

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH

Betty Beese @ Towsley Village, Chelsea



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)	Andrew French andrew.french.albion@gmail.com
Finance	Rick Lange langehome.1@gmail.com
Pastor	Joel Fitzgerald pierfitz@gmail.com
Missions Co-Chairs	John Williams Donna Williams
Memorial Chair	Carol Maynard
Choir/Handbell Director	Drew Dunham
Music Director/Pianist	Jan Fourn
Office Manager	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard

Pastoral Transition Activities

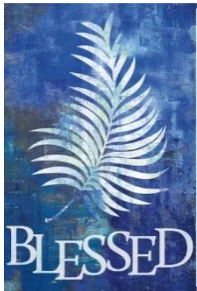
We will be having some small group gatherings to welcome Pastor Joel Fitzgerald to Albion. If you are interested in hosting one of these events in August or September, please contact Steve Noble ASAP. These are intended to be simple gatherings of 6-8 people in your home or maybe in the church lounge.



Drive For Kids' Books

The Sunday School Planning Committee has become aware there is a need for children's storybooks in our church nursery. Grandma's and others, do you have any books around your house your children or grandchildren have outgrown and no longer need? Donations will be cheerfully accepted. Some of

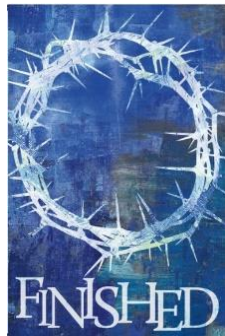
the books donated will be used to create a library for our nursery and others will be donated to the Marshall Methodist Free Store otherwise known as *There's Enough*. Donating to *There's Enough* is an additional outreach to put books in the hands of children. Books may be placed in a basket which will be placed near where envelopes are turned in.



Banner Committee

A church banner selection committee will meet in Tennant Hall on Aug. 2 at 4pm. We hope to enhance our worship space with a bit of color and elegance. If you are interested

in a discussion about what type of hanging system, size and design of a new banner, please join us. If you are interested but cannot make this meeting, you can still stay informed or offer your input by contacting Barb Lange.



UMW Update

We will have our next meeting on September 14, at 1 p.m. in with Wesley Lounge or Fellowship Lounge. Lisa French will speak with us about Chelsea Retirement Community. Please save the date and plan to join us.

PIECEMAKERS II

Tuesday, August 10
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Lounge



You are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall as we make dishcloths to be given out in December at the Community Food Distribution. We currently have slightly over 100 with a goal of 300. Yes, we think we can reach that goal. Other projects are also welcome. So bring your handwork and any finished products and let's have some social time.

Need a pattern or have questions, contact Marilyn Sprinkle at 517-857-2852 or msprink05@aol.com.

Sunday Schedule:




10:00 Worship

11:00 Refreshments

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 1:30 pm

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10a Worship - Communion 	2 3:30p Banner Committee 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	3	4	5 8a Bible Study	6	7
8 10a Worship	9 6:30p Scouts Webloes 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	10 10a Piecemakers II 	11	12 8a Bible Study 6:30p Trustees	13	14
15 10a Worship	16 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	17 4p Finance Committee	18	19 8a Bible Study	20	21
22 10a Worship	23 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	24 3p Food Distribution 7p SPRC 	25	26 8a Bible Study	27	28
29 10a Worship 3p RCC Bishop Appreciation	30 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	31				