



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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Albion, MI 49224

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Friends,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2021! I bet you are as anxious as I am to usher in a new year.

As this year began, I wrote, “No doubt, the year ahead will be filled with joy, sorrow, laughter and mission. And if the last few years have taught us anything, there will be a few unexpected surprises, too.” Wow, were there unexpected surprises!

The year started with the news that we would host a Special Session of the Michigan Annual Conference. You stepped up to help welcome nearly 2,000 of our fellow United Methodists to town. And then, of course, COVID-19 brought challenges we couldn’t have imagined. And you stepped up again, loving and supporting one another in truly remarkable ways. I am grateful for the light of God that shines so brightly in and through each of you.

I am thankful to be part of a faith community that continued to worship and serve with creativity, resilience and hope. Thank you for loving God, loving one another and loving this church. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us in 2021!

Pastor Leslee

January 2021

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

January at Albion FUMC

This month will surely bring many health and safety developments as the number of vaccinations increase and the impact of holiday gatherings is felt. We continue to monitor these developments closely to determine the appropriate time for in-person activities, including worship. The Sundays listed below are designed as virtual worship, only, but stay tuned for updates as circumstances allow.

Sunday, January 3 - Epiphany Sunday

Virtual worship with Zoom fellowship @ 11:00 am

Thursday, January 7

Virtual Bible Study @ 8:00 am

Sunday, January 10

Worship, Living with Courage, Week 1
"Courage to be Vulnerable"

Virtual worship with Zoom fellowship @ 11:00 am

Thursday, January 14

Virtual Bible Study @ 8:00 am

Sunday, January 17

Worship, Living with Courage, Week 2
"Courage in Grace"

Virtual worship with Zoom fellowship @ 11:00 am

Thursday, January 21

Virtual Bible Study @ 8:00 am

Sunday, January 24

Worship, Living with Courage, Week 3
"Courage to be the Last"

Virtual worship with Zoom fellowship @ 11:00 am

Thursday, January 28

Virtual Bible Study @ 8:00 am

Sunday, January 31

Worship, Living with Courage, Week 4
"Courage to be the First"

Virtual worship with Zoom fellowship @ 11:00 am

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 Rafaill plantgirl@rafaill.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
Office Manager	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard



Prayers

Marilyn Hennon, Jean Zander,
Lynne Baldwin, Ron Rice, Tom
Hartwell, Jasmine Luce, Kelly
Marilyn Knibury, Julia Landon,
Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva Rottenbiller,
Missy Wyss, 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



Living with Courage

In our world, “being courageous” is usually equated with strength, bravery and heroic acts.

What if true courage is less about putting on our superhero capes and more about having the strength to offer grace to a hurting world, about stepping outside our comfort zones to be vulnerable and about being the kind of hero who isn’t afraid to stand up for others?

This month, we’ll explore the courage that Jesus models, the kind of courage that helps us make changes in our own lives and inspires us to work together to transform the world.

If you, or anyone you love, is struggling to believe they can make a difference, can live with courage in a challenging time, this sermon series is for you. Join us, beginning Sunday, January 10.

Church Budget Survives Tough Year, 2021 Less Certain

Though the final numbers are still being crunched, the financial indicators for the church look positive as this year of unexpected disruption and challenge ends.

While contributions lagged a little through much of the year (understandable, given what else we were dealing with!), strong year-end giving has helped to bring us close to expected income levels for the year. In addition, expenditures have been below expectation in most areas so we will end the year having spent less than planned. This remarkable combination of sustained giving and reduced expenditures is a testament to your faithful stewardship. Thank you for your on-going commitment to this church and its ministries.

Budget projections for 2021, however, look a little less rosy. To date, pledge commitments are down some from current levels. If you haven’t yet made your pledge, please return your commitment card to the office (if you need a new card, we have those too). The next six weeks are a busy time in the financial life of the church. The more we know about expected giving for the coming year, the more accurate our annual budget, which needs to be recommended by the Finance Committee and adopted by the Church Council, can be. Stay tuned for updates on this process in next month’s Spire.

Envelope Packets for 2021 are

available for pickup from the table outside the church office. The church building will be open again on January 4, during office hours. It is costly to mail these, so please plan to pick up your packet of contribution envelopes as soon as possible. Thank you.



Sunday Schedule:

9:30 Choir
 9:30 Fellowship
 10:00 Worship
 11:00 Fellowship
 11:30 Sermon Discussion

Office Hours:

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

January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Worship 11a Virtual Coffee Hour	4 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	5	6	7 8a Bible Study	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED 	2
10 Worship 11a Virtual Coffee Hour	11 6:30p Scouts Webloes 7p Scouts BSA	12	13	14 8a Bible Study 6:30p Trustees	15	16
17 Worship 11a Virtual Coffee Hour	18 MLK Jr. Day 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	19	20 5:30p Mutual Ministry Team	21 8a Bible Study 12p Red Cross Blood Drive 	22	23
24 Worship 11a Virtual Coffee Hour 31 Worship 11a Virtual Coffee Hour	25 5:30p SPRC 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	26 3p Food Hub Distribution 	27	28 8a Bible Study	29	30