



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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Albion, MI 49224

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

Much has happened since our last newsletter. We have come back together for in-person worship and re-opened the office to business. We have not taken these steps lightly, doing all that we can to protect the health and well-being of our staff, our visitors and all of you.

As welcome as these steps have been, we still feel the impact of the Coronavirus. Building access remains limited. Public events are not yet occurring inside. Worship services look and feel very different. Our decisions regarding these issues are being guided by the common good. We will continue to listen to the advice of public health experts and adapt as necessary.

I want to thank you for being such grace-filled partners through it all. You have supported the on-going work of the church, been continually encouraging of me and our staff, and unwavering in your care for one another. You're even resisting the urge to hug one another on Sunday mornings. I am grateful to be navigating these difficult days with you.

Blessings,

Leslee

July 2020

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

Prayers

Lynne Baldwin, Ron Rice,
Dave Seely, Tom Hartwell,
Jasmine Luce, Greg Metzler,
Kelly Wilder, Marilyn Knibury,
Susan Connor, Julia Landon,
Hilda Ebbinghaus, Barbara Slaughter,
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



Staying Safe At Home?

If you aren't on our church email list (or Facebook friends with Pastor Leslee or the church) you might not know ... our Sunday worship services and Pastor Leslee's mid-week reflections are still available on YouTube, even though in-person worship has resumed.

Just go to www.youtube.com and type Albion First United Methodist Church in the search bar at the top to see all that we've been up to recently. Please also consider providing us with an email address so you can receive updates and information in a more timely manner.

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
Administrative Assistant	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard



July Worship at Albion FUMC

Just when you thought we might be getting back into a routine, the Sundays in July promise a variety of new and different worship experiences. Pastor Leslee is taking some much-needed time away and an exciting opportunity to support local and state mission is coming, as well.

July 5 - Let's gather, once again, in Goodrich Chapel at 10am for worship. Lois Fennimore will lead our worship service and Pastor Leslee will preach, virtually. She's promised to pre-record a message before she begins her time off.

July 12 - Todd Holton, of nearby Concord, MI will share his journey from cardiac arrest, coma and death to restoration and renewal. Todd's experience, and the family and faith community who refused to let him die, is a testament to God's miraculous healing power. Hear Todd's powerful story at 10am in Goodrich Chapel.

July 19 - Pastor Leslee will be back and we'll worship in Goodrich Chapel at 10am.

July 26 - We'll re-think church today, offering our worship to God through our hands and our feet. We'll join together to walk a 5k to

the church, and we'll end with a time of devotions and praise.

For information about the walk, visit <https://michiganumc.org/virtual-5k-benefits-flood-recovery/>, but please don't register! We'll register as a group.

More details of this special day are coming soon.

Viruses and Shutdowns Can't Stop the Trustees

While we have been staying home and limiting our activities, your Board of Trustees has been finding creative ways to do the important work of caring for the church and the parsonage. Using Zoom, a few in-person visits to the church and a lot of email, this group has continued its excellent care of our buildings.

In just the last month, this team has dealt with a roof leak (which should get fixed this week), approved the purchase of a new hot water heater for the parsonage (they even helped deal with the soaked carpets and the water), had the gutters cleaned at both properties, reviewed and updated a number of policies, finalized plans for new info-graphics for our doors to improve our signage, and dealt with a malfunctioning fire alarm (Sorry Gary, for all those late night calls from the alarm company!) In addition, someone from the committee walks the building nearly every night to confirm that everything is locked, secured and safe. It's a lot of work that often goes unseen and unappreciated.

The next time you see Barb Rafaill, Tony Hutchins, Bill Rafaill, Gary Harrison, Mark Robison, Anne Noble, John Patton or Tim Krause, please thank them for the important work they do so well.




support the church's disaster response to the flooding in Midland. Those not interested in walking can participate in mission activities at

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 Independence Day 
5 10a Worship in Goodrich	6	7	8	9 6:30p Trustees via ZOOM	10	11
12 10a Worship in Goodrich	13	14	15 5:30p Mutual Ministry Team via ZOOM	16	17	18
19 10a Worship in Goodrich 2p TENTATIVE - Carroll Bridal Shower	20	21 11a John Sharp Memorial	22	23	24	25
26 10a Worship/Mission Activity	27 5:30p SPRC via ZOOM	28 3p Food Hub Distribution	29	30	31	
2020 Michigan UMC - Virtual Annual Conference						