



# The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

[www.albionfirst.org](http://www.albionfirst.org)

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

## Time To Be Slow

I write this amidst a sea of boxes, as my oldest son sleeps at the other end of the couch, trying to get over a bad cold. This is a hectic time for pastors, as we try to pack up all our earthly possessions, put them in a box, and then realize we have maybe too many earthly possessions. We have to say good bye to our old churches, and begin to think about ministry in a new place and a new context. On top of this, we do this in the midst of a pandemic. Things are returning to some semblance of normal. There is a pent-up desire to return to the way things were before.

In this season of upheaval, I've been turning to the words of John O'Donohue, and Irish theologian and poet:

"This is the time to be slow,  
Lie low to the wall  
Until the bitter weather passes.

Try, as best you can, not to let  
The wire brush of doubt  
Scrape from your heart  
All sense of yourself  
And your hesitant light.

If you remain generous,  
Time will come good;  
And you will find your feet  
Again on fresh pastures of promise,  
Where the air will be kind  
And blushed with beginning."

I look forward to the work ahead with you all. I'm excited to move to Albion, to help my settle my family in this new place, to be a part of the great work you are already doing. But in the midst of all this, I must remind myself to

## July 2021

Christian Sympathy	2
Leadership Listing	
Prayers	
Upcoming Message Series	
Pastoral Transition	3
Activities	
Piecemakers II	
UMW Update	
Virtual Mission U	
Calendar	4

*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

take things slow. To be sure to rest. To ground myself in the One who is the ground of all being. I pray this blessing for myself, my family, and our church as we enter this season together.

Peace,  
Pastor Joel

## Upcoming Message Series

On Sunday, July 11, Pastor Joel will begin a message series entitled, “**Living as Christians in a Complex World.**”



The topics he will explore include:

- July 11 Holding our actions up against the rule of God’s justice
- July 18 Leading others to follow Jesus
- July 25 Following Jesus call to feed the people
- August 1 Using our gifts to work together as the Body of Christ

## 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

## Christian Sympathy



Susanne Sullivan passed away on Wednesday, June 23, 2021. We trust that God is wrapping her family in love and we join in praying for all who mourn her loss. There will be a memorial service on Thursday, July 1, at 3:00 p.m. at J Kevin Tidd Funeral Home in Albion, with a light luncheon following at the church in Tennant Hall.

## Pastoral Transition Activities

A very special thank you to Barb Lange and all those involved for Pastor Leslee's going away gathering. It was great to get together as a church and all the planning and preparation that went into the event was very obvious and deeply appreciated.

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 our home or maybe in the church lounge.



### UMW Update

We will have our next meeting, our Summer Refresher, on July 13, at 10:00 a.m. It will be at Polly Moore's home at 14444 Behling Rd., Concord. Carpooling would be a great idea. Please plan to join in the fun.

### PIECEMAKERS II

Tuesday, July 13

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Polly Moore Residence

14444 Behling Road, Concord



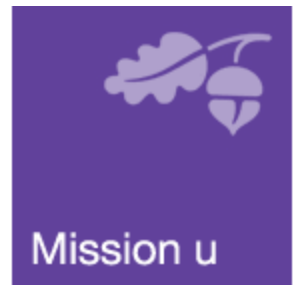
We encourage all knitters, crocheters, and quilters to join us as we continue to give our gifts and talents to our community. Whatever dishcloths, baby hats, baby quilts, etc. are created will be given to those in our community who are in need. There will also certainly be blessings for us in sharing time together.

If you have any questions, call Marilyn Sprinkle at (517) 857-2852 or (517) 812-3311.

## It's Time for Virtual Mission U

The Theme is based on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18:

"There's Far More Here Than Meets the Eye"



### The Message:

*So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without God's unfolding grace. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.*



### The Schedule:

- **Finding Peace in an Anxious World** - available anytime at: [www.umwmichiganconference.org/MissionuVideos.html](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org/MissionuVideos.html)
- July 9-10 Live on Zoom\* - **Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools**
  - Friday evening ZOOM worship
  - Saturday Sessions - approximately four hours with breaks
- August 13-14 Live on Zoom - **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom**
- October 18-19, 2021: Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC - \$70 (Lodging is on your own)

To **RSVP** for the July or August FREE sessions or October session, please choose one:

- go online to the website: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/>
- send email to: MIMissionu@gmail.com (Provide your Name, District, Church, and Dates Attending)
- mail information (July, August, October events) / check (October event) to:  
Sally Messner  
124 Boyd Street  
Fife Lake, MI 49633

Flyers are available in the church office if anyone is interested.

**Office Hours:**

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

**Sunday**

Worship 10:00 am

# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 8a Bible Study 8:30a Fellowship of Christian Athletes 4p Sullivan Memorial Luncheon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4 INDEPENDENCE DAY</b> 10a Worship-Communion 	<b>5 Independence Day Observed</b> Church Office Closed 	<b>6</b> 6p D&D Stainwell Cleaning	<b>7</b>		<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 10a Worship	<b>12</b> 6:30p Scouts - Webloes 7p Scouts BSA 158	<b>13</b> 10a UMW Summer Refresher and Piecemakers II 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 8a Bible Study 12p Blood Drive @ American Legion	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10a Worship	<b>19</b> 7p Scouts BSA 158	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 8a Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10a Worship	<b>26</b> 6p SPRC 7p Scouts BSA 158	<b>27</b> 5p Food Distribution 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 8a Bible Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>