



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

Dear Friends,

By now, you may have heard the news even if you were not able to join us for our Fellowship Dinner this past Sunday evening where the announcement was made. Thanks to the generosity of our former members, Parker and Martha Smith, the church has received a gift of just under \$400,000 from the trust they established prior to their deaths.

This unexpected gift creates unexpected opportunities. The Smiths left the decision for how best to use this money in our hands. Do we want to invest it, upgrade our facilities, expand our ministries? The possibilities stretch further than this one-time funding will, so we have some important decisions to make.

In the days ahead, there will be a number of opportunities to offer your thoughts and suggestions. I encourage you to consider, prayerfully, all of the possibilities. This is a chance for us to dream a little, not just about what we want Albion FUMC to be for us and how we want it to serve the community today, but what kind of a church we want to build for those who will come behind us.

Parker and Martha Smith gave considerably of their time and energy when they were active in the life of our church - ushering, singing in the choir and more. Now, they have given us a final gift through which we can grow and plan for the future. It is up to us to be wise stewards of their generosity.

Leslee

March 2019

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

Ash Wednesday Service



Join us for a time of reflection and the imposition of ashes as we begin our preparation for the death and resurrection of our Savior.

Wednesday, March 6

7:00 p.m.

Wesley Chapel

Leadership Listing

Lay Leader	Lois Fennimore glfennimore@yahoo.com
Church Council Chair	Mark Robison majerobi@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sally Ammerman sallya@wowway.com
Trustees Chair (Building & Property)	Barbara Raffail plantgirl@raffail.com
Staff-Parish Co-Chairs (Personnel)	Steve Noble steven.noble820@gmail.com Andrew French andrew.french.albion@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

Thank You for a Great Gathering

Thanks to all who provided leadership to make our February 24 gathering happen: Bill Raffail for assembling a short, yet quite informative booklet about our church history and its committee structure; Teri Nelson and Barb Stowell for set-up; Steve and Anne Noble for managing the food; Lisa and Andy French for clean-up; Barb Lange for targeting people to bring food. Of course, thanks also to all who brought food. We do seem to know how to throw a party at this church!

Thanks also to Pastor Leslee for answering the many questions we peppered her with after dinner. Everything from the terms of our church endowment to the various types of Lay Pastors and the reasons, pro and con, for the Methodist Church maintaining itinerant pastors she answered (mostly) without hesitation. (Good preparation for graduation finals?!)

The Trustees, who thought up this little idea, hope all those who attended learned a lot more about our church and enjoyed seeing all of its unique corners as groups took tours through the attic and rooms, peered into closets, and crept through the darkened spaces of the basement. We hope this event reinforced your pride in our church. We have a rich, long history and much to be thankful for as we move forward.

Barb Raffail
Chair, Trustee Committee

Prayers

Barb Stowell, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Greg Metzler, Dwight Nearnberg, Jon Sprandel, Ken Bentley, Beverly Bentley, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Allison Roesti @ Medilodge, Marshall

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Calhoun County Jail

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH (see next page)



UJMW News

Antarctica --

Let's go there and get warm! What an opportunity to hear all about it! It's an evening meeting at 7 p.m. on March 11. So come on all you guys - you'll like it. The Chisholms are bringing it to us and they're so good at doing that!

Sorry, you snowbirds - you'll miss it! But we are missing you and hoping you'll soon be back! Can't guarantee the snow will be gone but you will have our warm welcome back home!

Author, Nadia Bolz-Weber to Speak in Ann Arbor

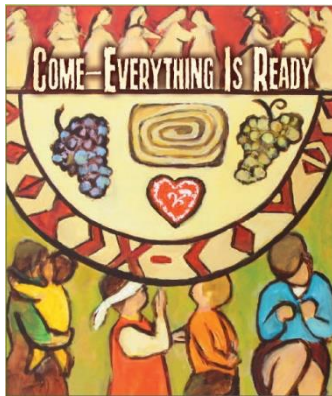
On Tuesday, March 19, at 7:00 p.m., author Nadia Bolz-Weber will be speaking on the topic, "Outside the Walls: Bringing the Church into the Community." She will also introduce her latest book, "Shameless."



Ann Arbor First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State Street, is hosting this event. It is free to the public, but seating is limited to 525 people. For more information, please visit their website: www.fumc-a2.org.

Albion FUMC Hosts World Day of Prayer

Each year, Christians around the world gather to pray for peace, wholeness and God's love. The Albion community has been participating for more than 60 years and this year, Albion FUMC is honored to host this celebration of our shared humanity.



Join us on Saturday, March 2 at 1:00 p.m. for this special event. This year, the women of the World Day of Prayer Committee of Slovenia will call us to worship with the words, "Come---everything is ready" from Luke 1:17. The Slovenian women will share their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's profound love. Please, "Come—everything is ready!"

Guest Pastor

On Sunday, March 10, we will welcome the Rev. Dr. Teleah Phillips, who will lead us in worship. Rev. Dr. Phillips is a Family Practice Physician here in Albion and an ordained itinerant deacon in the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

PowerPoint Help Needed

Are you interested in getting more involved in our Sunday worship experience? Here's your chance: The Tech Team needs a coordinator, a slide creator, and a Sunday morning setup and projection person. Each person will receive the necessary training over the next two months.

The coordinator is responsible for scheduling team members for each service. The slide creator builds the powerpoint we use each week. The setup and projection person needs to be available to arrive by 9 am on their scheduled Sunday mornings. Interested, but don't know how to use Powerpoint? No problem. That training is available too. Just let Lois Fennimore or Pastor Leslee know you'd be willing to help.

Staying In Touch...

Donna Gaskell is currently staying with her daughter and can be reached at:

Donna Gaskell
c/o B. Perkins
2231 Coon Road
Copley, OH 44321
Phone: 330.329.7490

Upcoming Events

- March 6** Ash Wednesday Service
7pm @ Wesley Chapel
- March 10** Guest Pastor:
Rev. Dr. Teleah Phillips
- March 16** BSA Troop 158 Fundraiser:
"The Romanian Uranium Mine
Mystery"
6pm @ Tennant Hall **NOTE:**
Advanced Tickets Required
- March 19** Nadia Bolz-Weber - "Outside the
Walls: Bringing the Church
into the Community" 7pm @ Ann
Arbor First United Methodist Church
- March 29** Big Band Show - 6pm @ Tennant
Hall



Big Band Show March 29!

Don't Miss This! Friday evening, March 29, from 6 to 9 pm, we will have the Big Band Dance and Dessert Buffet. This event will feature the *Sounds* Appropriate Big Band. No

tickets; No reservations required. It's Free! Seating is First Come First Served.

If you are interested in helping with this event, please contact Jake Weber. Phone: 629-4340
E-mail: jweber@albion.edu

Hope to see you there!

Scout Fundraiser on March 16



"The Romanian Uranium Mine Mystery"

Interactive Murder
Mystery Dinner
Experience

Presented by BSA Troop 158,
Albion College Players, Theta Alpha Phi
Tennant Hall - starting **PROMPTLY** at 6pm
Tickets: \$15.00 per person
ADVANCED TICKETS REQUIRED*

A Romanian count is "missing." He's the 3rd victim in a scam being run to own a uranium mine in New Mexico. The first two "investors" have never been heard from again. Inspector Clueles poses as the count to catch the criminal, but as his name suggests he's a little lost. With Marilyn Monroe wannabes, greedy businessmen/women and crazy tree-hugger protestors, can our audience get to the bottom of this mystery? Or will one of our characters wind up dead? Du, du, dumm... Muhahahahaha.

*Tickets available from:

- any BSA Troop 158 member
- Scoutmaster David Huber:

call/text: 207.608.2571

e-mail: mrweldo2@gmail.com

Include: Name, Phone Number,
Number of Tickets

**Murder
Mystery
Dinner**








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

March 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30 Sermon Discussion 5p Build Them....Rock 8p Women's Bible Study	4 5:30p WU Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	5 9a Zone 1 Clergy Meeting	6 ASH WEDNESDAY 8a Biggby Bible Study 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	7 	8 10a World Day of Prayer (WDP) rehearsal	9 1p World Day of Prayer 
10 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS  Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 8p Women's Bible Study	11 1p UMW Circle Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	12 9a SAP Steering Committee 11:30 Albion Area Philanthropic Women	13 8a Biggby Bible Study 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	14 9:30 AALL Board 12p  Blood Drive 7p Trustees	15	16 5p BSA Troop 158 Fundraiser - Murder Mystery Dinner 
17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY  Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 1p BSA Court of Honor 8p Women's Bible Study	18 4p Finance Committee 5:30p Women United 7p Church Council 7p Boy Scouts	19	20 8a Biggby Bible Study 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	21 5p Chili Benefit Dinner - Library/Lions	22 2p Albion Health Care Alliance Board	23
24 / 31 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 8p Women's Bible Study	25 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	26 10a Piecemakers	27 8a Biggby Bible Study 1:15p Sheldon Place Bible Study 6:30p Bell Choir	28	29 6p BIG BAND SHOW 	30