



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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“... one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray ...” (Luke 11:1)

Recently, I heard a clergy colleague talking about the power that prayer has to transform our lives. “The transcript of your prayers,” he said, “will become the script of your future.” I found myself wondering if I pray expecting that kind of impact. Do I expect to encounter God in such a profound way? Do you?

Rev. James Harnish, in a reflection about prayer for the “A Disciple’s Path,” shares a story about a congregation of “teetotaling Methodists” who prayed fervently for the Lord to do something about the disreputable bar across the street from the church. The bar was hit by lightning and burned to the ground. The bar owner promptly sued the church, claiming the congregation’s prayers were responsible. The church contested the suit. After hearing the case, the judge said, ‘I’m not sure how I’ll rule on this case, but one thing is clear. The bar owner believes in prayer, and the church people don’t.’ 😊

There has been much to pray for recently in the life of our church. Grief, pain, uncertainty and fear are all too common human experiences. As you continue to pray for one another, my prayer for you is that you will feel God’s presence in those moments of communion and that you will be changed by the encounter.

Blessings,
Leslee

May 2021

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

Prayers



Jim and Nidia Wolf's grandson, Will,
Fred and Shelly Wilder, Marilyn
Hennon, Jerry & Sue Rugg
(Sprinkle), Julia Landon, Tom
Hartwell, Jasmine Luce, Kelly
Wilder, Marilyn Knibury, Ken
Bentley, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva
Rottenbiller, and Pastor Tom

Hollowood @ home

Miriam Daly @ Kresge Center, UMRC, Chelsea

Barb Stowell, Missy Wyss @ Maplewood,
Marshall

Lynne Baldwin, Advantage Living Center,
Battle Creek

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Chippewa Correctional
Facility, Kincheloe

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Christian Sympathy

Our Albion FUMC family has
experienced profound loss
this month.

We trust that God is
wrapping these families
in love and we join in
upholding and praying for
all who mourn their loss:



James Cook passed away on Friday, April 2,
2021, after having suffered a stroke.

Mary Gaskell Wright, daughter of Donna
Gaskell, passed away on Saturday, April 10,
2021 at her home in Virginia.

Ron Rice passed away on Tuesday, April 27,
2021 in Florida with Elaine by his side. We will
celebrate Ron's life together in coming days

Rosemary Sprague Dininny, wife of Bob,
passed away on Friday, April 30 following
complications from a recent surgery.

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)	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

Flowers Return!

We may not be able to
return safely to worship in
Wesley Chapel yet, but can
bring one of our of Wesley
traditions back to worship. The
"Flower Chart" is back! Sign up to provide
flowers for worship to recognize a special day,
honor someone, or just to give thanks to God.
Write your name next to a date on the chart or
call the church office to get on the schedule.



Save the Date! Farewell Party!

On Sunday June 13th, we'll say farewell to Pastor Leslee with an outdoor, boxed lunch picnic. We'll worship together and then enjoy this fellowship. Help us honor Pastor Leslee for the leadership and ministry she has given us and to wish her well in her new assignment.



We need your help to plan! Please fill out the RSVP slip in your Sunday bulletin or call the church

office to let us know you can attend.

A variety of sandwiches, chips, fruit and, of course, dessert will be available. Our rainy day plan is to gather socially distant inside Fellowship Lounge, Tennant Hall and hallways.

If you wish to give a personal gift or write a card to Pastor Leslee, there will be an opportunity to drop it in a "well wishes" basket at the event. Gifts and cards/notes of appreciation will be collected by the church office in advance. If you contribute by a check, payable to First United Methodist Church, please include a notation that it is a gift for Pastor Leslee Fritz. (NOTE: A gift such as this is not tax deductible.)

Rev. Dale Miller Preaches May 9

Pastor Leslee will be away early in May and our own Rev. Dale Miller will preach and lead worship. Join Dale and our talented musicians for a special Mother's Day worship on Sunday, May 9.

Albion FUMC May Be Short-Term Preschool Location

The Battle Creek YMCA currently operates a Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) preschool in Battle Creek in partnership with the Calhoun County Intermediate School District. GSRP is a pre-K readiness program for at-risk kids to prepare them for kindergarten. (Learn more about it here: [MDE - Great Start Readiness Program \(michigan.gov\)](https://mde.michigan.gov/gsrp))



The YMCA has been approved for a similar program here in Albion for up to 32 children and were planning to operate at Crowell School until the program can move into the new Y, once it is built. A significant lead paint problem has been discovered and that location has been ruled out.

Inspections have been completed and some of our under-utilized space on the 2nd floor meets state guidelines for this program. The Trustees will soon decide if we will move forward with this program.



UMW Update

We will have our next meeting on **Tuesday, May 11, at 1 p.m.**

We will gather safely in-person in Fellowship Lounge and virtually via ZOOM for those who would rather participate in that manner.

We are still finalizing our program. This meeting is open to all interested persons. We would love to see you there!

Albion's Food Distribution Program Gets a New Name and New Location

The ad-hoc group that came together to help meet emergency needs in the early days of the pandemic continues to provide leadership for Albion's food distribution program. Pastor Leslee has been an active part of this group. To ensure this critical work continues and expands, the group has decided to organize into a more formal operation.

The Community Table of Albion (CTA) is the new name of this partnership of local groups and individuals working together to combat food insecurity in our community. The name change reflects the inclusive nature of the food distribution outreach service. All are welcome at the table.

Beginning in May, the Community Table of Albion will operate from Kresge Commons behind Wesley Hall. The new location was donated by Albion College and allows for more space and better coordination. The college renovated the larger distribution space and

donated significant time, materials and labor. Local resident Bill Dobbins also assisted with the renovation effort.

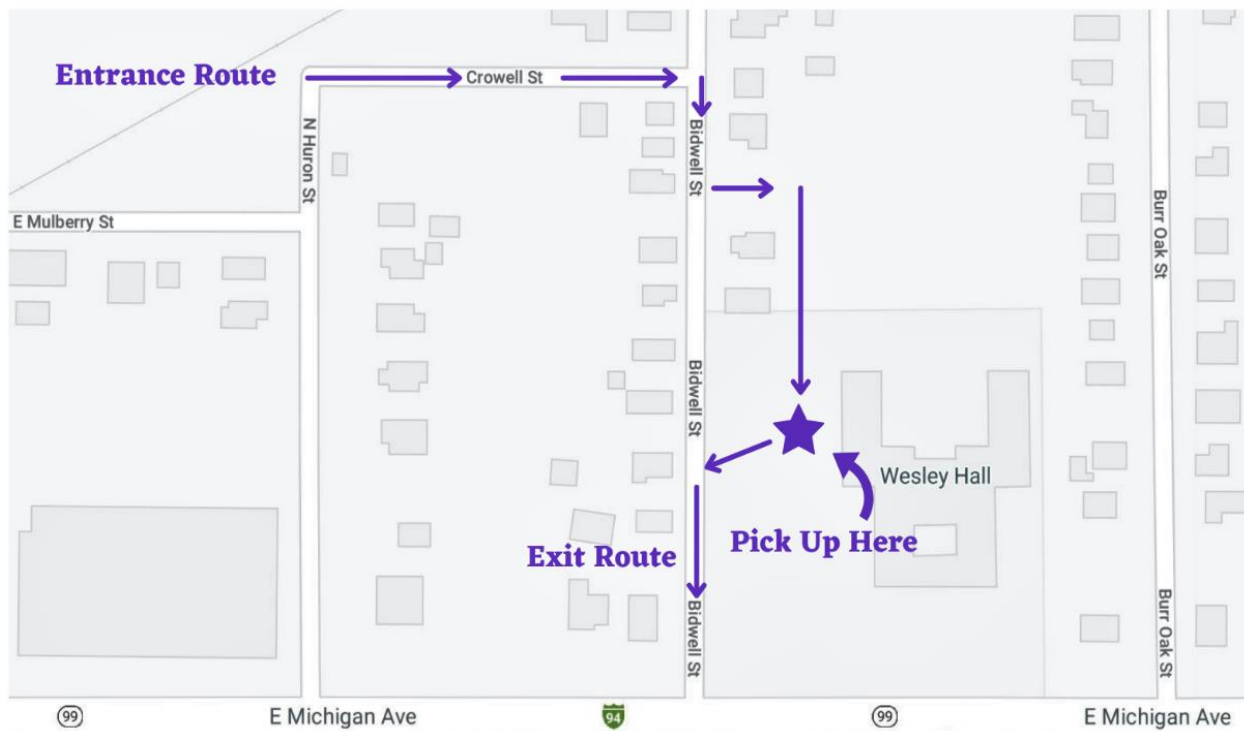
The thrice-monthly food distributions will continue on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 4pm. The first distribution at the new location is May 11.

Plans are also developing for an on-going Food Pantry at this location.

Please share this new location and map with anyone you know who needs a little help stretching their food budget each month.

Partners in this effort include: Albion-Homer United Way, Albion Community Foundation, Albion First United Methodist Church, Oaklawn Hospital, Albion Healthcare Alliance and Albion College.

Fresh Food Distributions ... same service, new location



Office Hours:

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

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Sunday

Worship 10:00 am

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10a Worship - Communion 	3 9a Election Setup 7p Scouts BSA 158	4 ELECTION DAY 7a Special Election 4p Finance Committee 	5 9a Election Teardown 3p Big Read Study Hall	6 8a Bible Study 	7 10a BA Orientation	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY 10a Worship 	10 6:30p Scouts-Webloes 7p Scouts BSA 158	11 1p UMW Meeting 	12 3p Big Read Study Hall	13 8a Bible Study 6:30p Trustees 	14 5p Dr. Susan Connor Award Presentation	15
16 10a Worship	17 7p Scouts BSA 158	18	19 3p Big Read Study Hall	20 8a Bible Study 12p Blood Drive 	21	22
23 10a Worship	24 6p SPRC 7p Scouts BSA 158	25 4p Food Distribution 	26 3p Big Read Study Hall	27 8a Bible Study 	28	29
30 10a Worship	31 MEMORIAL DAY Office Closed 7p Scouts BSA 158					