



# 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

Friends,

Like many United Methodist churches, we celebrate Communion once a month. We will share this sacrament together, again, this weekend. It is a special time when we are all welcomed to God's table to receive the grace and peace that God offers. This Sunday (October 6), the Lord's table stretches just a bit farther than usual ... the Lord's table stretches all around the world.

World Communion Sunday, observed on the first Sunday in October, is an ecumenical celebration by people of many denominations in an effort to promote unity among Christians around the world. It's also a chance for us, in the UMC, to help promote education.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." The special offering we take on this day will help to ensure that more people, around our world have the tools they need to help bring change, hope and opportunity by supporting scholarships for young scholars and seminarians. So, this Sunday, come to the table to receive all that God is offering to you, but know that as you receive, you also will be giving a gift to fellow believers across the globe. Come and be fed.

Blessings,  
Pastor Leslee

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*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

## Prayers

Georgina Hartwell, Tom Hartwell, Phyl Smith, John Fourn, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Rob Dinniny, Barb Stowell, Greg Metzler, Pastor Loree Grinnell, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Missy Wyss @ Maplewood Assisted Living, Marshall

Nick Peltier - deployed, serving in Iraq

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Cotton Correctional Facility, Jackson

Betty Beese @ Glazier Assisted Living, Chelsea

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH



## Christian Sympathy



Kay Jaeger, mother of Anne Noble and Sarah Gillette, passed away on Saturday, September 21. Please keep Anne, Steve, Sarah, family and friends in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



Jim Snyder, longtime member of our congregation and the Albion community, passed away after a lengthy illness. Please keep family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

## Contact Information

Missy Wyss is doing quite well, but misses her friends from our church and the Albion Community. She does receive some calls and visits but would welcome additional calls and visits during the remaining time she will be undergoing treatment.

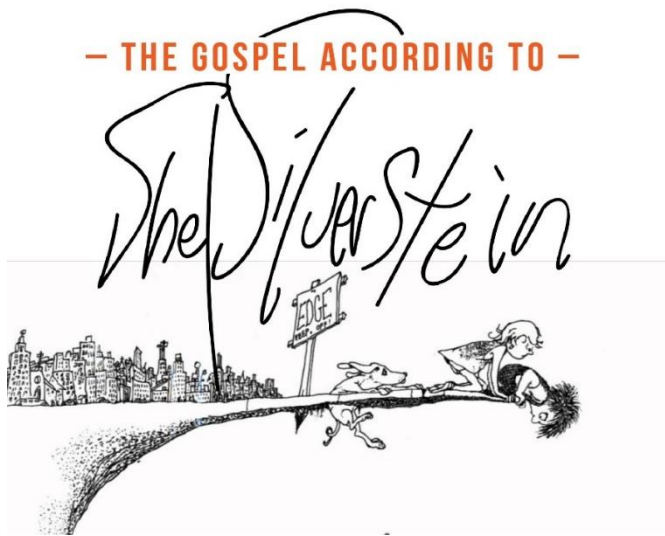
Phone: 517.740.4749

Address: Maplewood  
200 Westbrook Court, #222  
Marshall, MI



## 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 Rafaill plantgirl@rafaill.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



## Upcoming Sermon Series

Shel Silverstein is one of America's best-known poets. His imagination and creativity captured the hearts and minds of children and adults, alike. His books, including *The Giving Tree*, *Where the Sidewalk Ends* and *A Light in the Attic*, have sold more than 25 million copies.

Silverstein's poems were funny, edgy, often sad and always thought-provoking as they spoke of the everyday struggles with life, love, and fitting in.

Beginning Sunday, October 13, we'll revisit some of Silverstein's work, letting them remind us, again, of the simple truths by which we are called to live as people of faith.

## All Invited for Food, Fun and Games

Albion FUMC will host a Family Fun Night for the community on Sunday, October 27, beginning at 5:30pm. We'll share a meal, play some games and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship.

Mark your calendars and join the fun!



## Church Conference Conducts Business

The annual business meeting of the church took place on Saturday, September 28 at Concord United Methodist Church.

This meeting, which is required by church rules, enables all congregation members to participate in decision-making for the church.

At the church conference, participants:

- reviewed the membership list, voting to remove 12 individuals who are no longer involved in the life of the church,
- approved the compensation package for Pastor Leslee for 2020,
- approved the nominations report, detailing committee assignments and leadership roles,
- affirmed the church's recommendation of Lois Fennimore to continue as a Certified Lay Servant, Certified Lay Speaker and Certified Lay Minister, and
- discussed new opportunities for community engagement and mission.

For a copy of the materials discussed and the minutes of the meeting, please contact the church office.

# UMW News

## Who's Having A Birthday?

Most of us like having birthdays. It's an affirmation that life is continuing on this earth. We've made it so far. There are new adventures ahead. We've been blessed with the riches of family and friends as well as challenged by trials and troubles that cross our paths. Well, this year marks a collective birthday for United Methodist Women. We, as a national organization, are 150 years old! Through this century and a half, we have had many names, but our central mission from the beginning has been being in mission for women, children, and youth around the world. Our women at Albion First United Methodist Church have faithfully been a part of this mission in various ways for over one hundred years. We have been identified as the Ladies Aid, Women's Foreign Aid Society, Women's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild, and now United Methodist Women. Today, our local unit is small, but mighty. We study, pray, sing, encourage, cook, sew, and contribute financially together. Our individual pledges apart from our giving to this local congregation, as well as contributions from funeral luncheons, support our pledge to mission to United Methodist Women.

Lest you think that we are all about money, I believe that my own ever-growing knowledge and concerns for social, climate, health, and economic justice as well as spiritual growth have been in large part learned from UMW studies and the Reading Program.

Come join us on October 14th at 7 p.m. in Wesley Lounge. Carol Yeomans-Phelan will share with us "The Walk" series by Richard Paul Evans.

If you are interested in attending the FIRST Michigan Conference UMW Annual Celebration on October 26th, 10 AM to 3 PM in Howell, MI

contact me (dlgwilliams@att.net) or see Cindi in the church office. Deadline is October 14th.

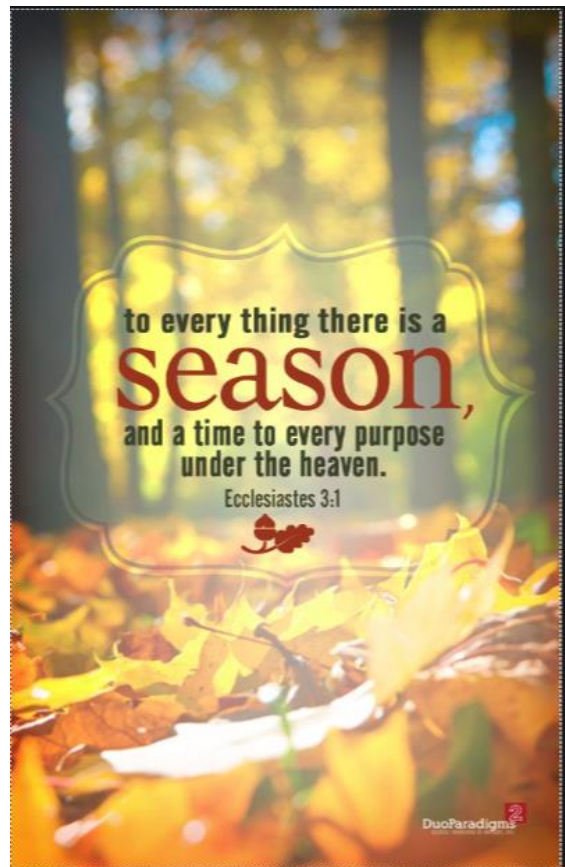
Celebrating a significant birthday,  
*Donna Williams*



## Church 20/20 ~

### Creating a New Heritage

The theme for the Heritage District Conference on October 12 at Marshall UMC is: Church 20/20 ~ Creating a New Heritage. 9:30 am is registration with the events of the day going from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. Bishop Bard will speak. There will be opportunities to hear from Rev. Don Emmert, Rev. Mike Desotell, Rev. Kathy Pittenger, Laura Witkowski, Rev. Paul Perez, and Rev. Jeff Reagan. Register online at [shorturl.at/cuwFJ](http://shorturl.at/cuwFJ).






**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

# October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 8a Biggby Bible Study	2 6:30p Bell Choir	3	4
					5 4:30p Hart Family 40th Anniversary Dinner
6 World Communion Sunday Sunday Schedule Communion 11:30 Sermon Discussion	7 5:30p WU Leadership 7p Boy Scouts	8 8a Biggby Bible Study	9 6:30p Bell Choir	10 9a Zone 1 Clergy 2p UMW Executive Team 6:30p Trustees	11 2p Community Leadership
					12 9:30a Heritage District Conference @ Marshall UMC 2p McCarley Memorial
13 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 11:30 Gonzales Baptism Reception	14 Columbus Day 7p UMW Circle Meeting 7p Boy Scouts 	15 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Fire Alarm Inspection	16 5:30p WU/SIS Mentoring 6:30p Bell Choir	17 7p Men Who Give	18 8a AC Choral Festival
					19 2p Generi Baby Shower
20 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion	21 1:30p Entre Nous 5:30p Women United 7p Boy Scouts	22 8a Biggby Bible Study 10a Piecemakers 5:30p Mutual Ministry Team	23 6:30p Bell Choir	24	25 2p Albion Health Care Alliance
					26 11a AC Smooth Transitions Jazz Brunch
27 Sunday Schedule 11:30 Sermon Discussion 5:30p Family Fun Night	28 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Boy Scouts	29 8a Biggby Bible Study	30 6:30p Bell Choir	31 Halloween 