



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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

Like many United Methodist churches, we typically celebrate Communion once a month (when we aren't in a pandemic, of course). 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 God's grace and peace. This Sunday, the Lord's table stretches a bit farther than usual ... the Lord's table stretches 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. And if there is anything this world could use more of right now, its unity!

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 helps people throughout the world develop the tools they need to help bring change, hope and opportunity by supporting scholarships for young scholars and seminarians.

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

October at Albion FUMC

As the cooler fall weather takes firm hold, our efforts to design creative and meaningful ways to gather for worship and fellowship encounter new challenges. We will continue to do all we can to balance our desire to gather with our need to ensure the safety of all involved.

These are just a few of the opportunities available this month.

Sunday, October 4

World Communion Sunday
Worship in Tennant Hall at 10:00am

It a special service of worship and sacrament. Come and be fed.

Saturday, October 10

Heritage District Annual Conference
(via Zoom) @ 10:00am

We'll worship together and hear what's happening in the Heritage District. Zoom link will be shared when we receive it.

Sunday, October 11

Worship in Tennant Hall at 10:00am

Tuesday, October 13

Coffee and Conversation with the Pastor,
2:00pm in the Church Yard

There's a lot happening in the life of our church and our community. Bring a chair and your favorite beverage and join Pastor Leslee for some conversation. We'll gather outside if the weather cooperates; in Tennant Hall if it doesn't.

Sunday, October 18

Worship in Tennant Hall at 10:00am

Sunday, October 25

Worship in Tennant Hall at 10:00am

The Rev. Dale Miller will share the Good News this morning.

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
Office Manager	Cindi Klingel albionfumc@gmail.com
Housekeeper	Lynn Markovich
Custodian	Larry Maynard



Charge Conference Conducts Business for 2021

The annual business meeting of the church took place on Wednesday, September 23 with our new District Superintendent, LuAnn Rourke, via Zoom. This meeting, which is required by church rules, enables congregation members to participate in decision-making for the church.

At the church conference, participants:

- reviewed the membership list, voting to remove 4 individuals who are no longer involved in the life of the church
- approved the compensation package for Pastor Leslee for 2021
- approved the lay leadership 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
- heard a brief overview from Pastor Leslee about the status of the Wesley Renovation Team's work. (see article in this newsletter for more info)

Everyone should have received a copy of the materials that were discussed via email from Pastor Leslee in advance of the meeting. If you did not, or need another copy or the minutes of the meeting, please contact the church office.



Kitchen Do-Bee Thank You

The Kitchen Do-Bee organizers are incredibly grateful for ten volunteers who came to help with kitchen cleaning and organizing. Both scheduled days in September were very productive, and a bit fun if you can believe it! A couple of the volunteers contributed additional time on their own. Altogether, we worked our way into "clean and tidy." Our church is blessed with people who willingly step forward to make a difference for many.

Prayers

Marilyn Hennon, Jean Zander, Lynne Baldwin, Ron Rice, Tom Hartwell, Jasmine Luce, Greg Metzler, Kelly Wilder, Marilyn Knibury, Susan Conner, Julia Landon, Hilda Ebbinghaus, 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



Christian Sympathy

Dave Seely passed away on Thursday, September 3, 2020 at his home. Please keep his wife, Debbie, his family and the Albion College Community in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.



**UNITED
METHODIST
WOMEN**

Faith • Hope • Love in Action

Congratulations, Donna Williams!

At the recent Heritage District United Methodist Women annual meeting, Albion FUMC's Donna Williams was installed as a member of the Leadership Team for Education and Interpretation. This new role continues Donna's lifelong commitment to both mission and the work of the UMW. Congratulations, Donna! If you want to learn about getting involved in UMW, we're sure Donna would be happy to tell you more.



Scouts BSA, Troop 158 Update

Some may have noticed our Monday night Scout Meetings were not on the Church Calendar for a while. When the COVID-19 restrictions began, Michigan Crossroads Council BSA issued their

own restrictions which prevented the troop from meeting in person. We had Virtual Zoom meetings on Monday nights.

Since the Michigan BSA is licensed thru the state's DHS youth division, all youth summer camps were closed. A few of our scouts attended Camp-Sort-Of. This was a Virtual Summer Camp experience to substitute for in person camping. The scouts were able to work towards rank advancement and earn some merit badges.

Beginning July 1st, we were permitted to meet in person under strict 5-Step restarting scout procedures and regulations which are all in line with the Governor's executive orders. Since the scout room is unbearably hot in the summer we met in Victory Park and Mr. Huber's back yard. We went canoeing and for a bike hike, and participated in service work and fund raising at Swinging at the Shell concerts. We've started

Monday meetings in the Scout room in September. Under our strict guide lines, anyone participating in our meetings has to fill out waiver forms and other documents. We are staying positive and hopeful that the restrictions will be lifted in the near future.

Our troop is selling Trails End popcorn now thru October please contact Scoutmaster David Huber if you would like to purchase some.

Teddy Krawczynski passed his final Eagle Board of Review on August 25 becoming our newest Eagle Scout. He will be having his official Eagle Court of Honor later this Fall or next Spring.

We had a number of Scouts age out in the past year and the Troop is in need of new members. We are in the recruiting season and are looking for young men ages 11 thru 14 to join our troop. New adults over 21 are welcome also. If you know of someone who would be interested or benefit from our program, please have them contact Scoutmaster David Huber; 207-608-2571.

We thank Albion First United Methodist Church for their undying support of Troop 158 BSA since 1925 and recognize that this remarkable relationship is why we will be able to re-charter once again this November to make our Troop 107 years young.

Scoutmaster, David Huber





Wesley Renovation conversation continues

The task force created by the Church Council last winter to consider options for renovating Wesley Chapel and Wesley Lounge has continued it's work this summer. The group has largely completed its first task which was to identify our shared priorities for any potential project. Among the priorities identified are:

- Address any structural issues that may exist
- Create a more visible and welcoming entrance
- Update and make restrooms accessible
- Create more flexible chancel space for worship

- Update sanctuary technology to improve sound, video and recording/broadcasting capabilities
- Identify or create more useable storage areas, including for coats
- Address the narrow, steep balcony stairs
- Update and reconfigure gathering area to create a lively space which encourages interaction, conversation and small group activity

The next steps are to engage with professionals to determine the options for addressing these priorities. These conversations will soon begin and should result in some initial plans and cost estimates. At that point, we will hold a church meeting for input and discussion. This will be the first of several church meetings throughout the process. If you have questions or concerns about the group's work or the potential project, Pastor Leslee is always happy to talk.

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 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY  10a Worship	5 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	6	7	8 8a Bible Study 6:30p Trustees Meeting via ZOOM	9	10 10a Heritage District Annual Conference 11a Healthy Babies Day Drive-Through @ Cram Building
11 10a Worship	12 COLUMBUS DAY 6:30p Scouts - Webloes 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	13 2p Coffee with pastor	14	15 8a Bible Study	16	17
18 10a Worship	19 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	20	21 5:30p Mutual Ministry Team via ZOOM	22 8a Bible Study	23	24 9:30a UMW Michigan Annual Meeting via ZOOM 
25 10a Worship	26 5:30p SPRC Meeting 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	27 5p Food Distribution	28	29 8a Bible Study	30	31 HALLOWEEN 