



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

Death and Resurrection

This month finds us on the cusp of Holy Week. Holy Week is on odd week. It starts with the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday, takes a quick nose dive to the sorrow and betrayal of Good Friday, and then ends with the mystery and joy of Easter. All within 7 days.

I usually find myself annoyed by this pace. There is so much rich theology in each of these events, that I wish we had a week for each one. The political implications of Jesus marching on to Jerusalem, Jesus' self-less acts and final discourse during the Last Supper, the human drama of the betrayals on Good Friday, the meaning of Easter and resurrection. All of it deserves more than one week can provide.

Yet, as we all have experienced these past two years, life often doesn't give us the time we'd like. Like the church year, we may go stretches of months without anything significant happening. Then all of a sudden, we are inundated. For instance, in the last 3 months, my son got Covid, we had to isolate at our home for a month, we had numerous snow days, then my dad had a heart attack on my birthday. It's all a lot.

So while I wish Lent was a longer, I think its shortness is actually useful. It mirrors our human experience of things seemingly going from great to terrible and back again all at once. It affirms that even when we walk with God, the fallen-ness of the world can still impact us. It reminds us that the joy of the present moment may not last. But it also equally reminds us that the sorrow and guilt of the present moment also won't last.

April 2022

Christian Sympathy Current and Upcoming Message Series Prayers	2
Leadership Listing Many Thanks... UMW News and Views	3
Scouts Fundraiser SPRC Meeting Minutes	4
Fellowship Supper and Program Financial Update Last Call for Easter Flower Orders Piecemakers II	5
Calendar	6

Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

This Holy Week I encourage you to enter into the drama, the highs and the lows. Take the pulse on your life and see where in the story you find yourself. And then remind yourself that whether we are on the heights of jubilation or the depths of despair, God is there with us, calling us forward.

Peace,
Pastor Joel

Current Message Series

Our current message series is about how to dance amidst the hardness of life. It is entitled:

Lent: Hard to Dance with the Devil on Your Back

April 3 The Disciple Whom Jesus Loved: Judas

Dealing with betrayal of those we love

April 10 When Worlds Collide

Letting God make us anew

April 17 Dancing with Holes in Your Shoes

Entering into joyful relationship with Jesus

Beginning after Easter, Pastor Joel will start a new message series entitled: **Creation Care**. It will focus on Following Jesus in our care of creation.

April 24 In the beginning

God cares about the earth

May 1 Stewardship

We care about the earth

May 8 Love Each Other

Caring for the earth means caring for others

May 15 Things Go Bad

Things are broken

May 22 Hope

There are solutions

May 29 Resolve

We can be a part of the solution



Prayers

Noel Deal, Tom Fitzgerald, Nidia Wolf, Bev Bentley, Pat Phelps, Nancy Sprandel, Jan Fourn, Allen Knight, Cindy Herriman Baird, Eric Rice, Gayle Evans, Shelly Wilder, Marilyn Hennon, Julia Landon, Tom Hartwell, Kelly Wilder, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Brett (Hilda's nephew), Joe Jackson, Eva Rottenbiller, Audrey (friend of French's) Terry Bobzien, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Bill Maynard @ Henry Ford Hospital, Jackson

Barb Stowell, Missy Wyss @ Maplewood, Marshall

Lynne Baldwin @ Advantage Living and Senior Care, Battle Creek

Tamara and Jeremy Williams @ Muskegon, MI

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Chippewa Correctional Facility, Kincheloe

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH

Betty Beese @ Towsley Village, Chelsea

People of Ukraine



Christian Sympathy

Glenda Maynard passed away at Henry Ford Hospital on Monday, March 28, from injuries sustained in a serious automobile accident. Glenda's husband, Bill, Larry Maynard's brother, was also injured in the accident and is improving, but is still in a medically induced coma. Please continue to pray for Bill's healing, and keep Larry, Carol, Lynn, L.D., and the entire family in your thoughts and prayers.



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

Many thanks...

A heartfelt "thank you" to all the wonderful folks who renovated the nursery/pre-school room. We truly appreciate the time and work involved by you to make it bright, colorful and neat. It is a pleasure to care for the children in such a welcoming atmosphere.

Mary Campa, Noël Deal and Abby Taylor



UMW News and Views



UMF, UMW, WSCS, WSG, WFMS, LAS...
What's in a Name?

Never begin a note with an apology, a rule for writing, but I will begin anyway. What happens when one is not paying attention, or perhaps trying to do too many things? I miss important matters. I am so sorry! I understand even more so why United Methodist Women has had so many positions in their organizational structure. It spreads the workload more evenly. While I was having family visits, trying to put the apartment in order, taking care of responsibilities in other organizations or beyond our local unit, playing hand bells, preparing meals, singing (Yeah for choir!), and well, too much, UMW changed its name to **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**. I will send you to some internet links to explain that. Mostly, I am sorry that we did not meet in February and March.

We will meet **April 12th at 1 p.m.** in the **CONFERENCE ROOM**, Holy Week and all! Let's get together in person and Zoom, if necessary! I will share some of the program from the Heritage District UMF Prayer Brunch which John and I attended in March, face to face! Bring your Bibles and an open heart! As always, we will share our joys and concerns.

If you can figure out what the title of this article means, you are nearly as old as I am or you know a lot about the history of women in mission in the Methodist church. If you are curious and/or want to be informed, check out these two sites:

<https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/unit-ed-methodist-women-is-now-united-women-in-faith>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSQoxOTCUydTyTAjclLbmVAQ>.

The 2022 March-April Response Magazine that is on the literature rack in the FUMC hall also features the new "brand". Our purpose is the same. Our name is new.

Blessings Always,
Donna and Anne (who has been vacationing)

SPRC Meeting Minutes

Summary of February 22, 2022 SPRC meeting

Regular meeting of the committee.

Committee Chair: Andy French

Meeting opened at 7:05 with prayer by Pastor Joel

Minutes from January meeting and the agenda were approved

The committee was provided with a history of the building attendants arrangements by Carol Maynard.

There was a discussion of primary duties of the building attendants: building security and support for setting up and taking down for activities in the building are the primary duties.

Carol advised that the Trustees have appointed her as liaison for the building attendants. She will review conditions in their area. Church secretary has day-to-day operational oversight.

To assure the Building Attendants understand the responsibility of their position, a guidance document will be revised and will be used for orientation during their interviews for the positions.

Pastor Joel provided a Pastoral report.

The committee discussed and agreed to follow a monthly activity schedule to assure we complete our duties.

Annual staff reviews will be started.

The committee will continue to look at custodial and housekeeper duties to assure efficiencies.

Joel advised that the Ramen restaurant will start operations in March in the church kitchen.

Meeting closed 8:10 PM

Summary of March 2022 meeting

Meeting was held on March 22 at 6 P.M. There was a discussion about the new Building Attendant agreement developed by the Trustees. There was a discussion about the BA oversight person and her roles and responsibilities. Roles and responsibilities were discussed. Cindi K will still have day to day oversight responsibilities. The committee requested that we receive quarterly updates on progress or issues.

There was a discussion on the new process for staff annual reviews and committee members were assigned staff reviews to complete for this year. They were asked to complete the reviews by May.

Custodial positions were discussed along with succession planning for those positions.

Pastor Joel provided his pastoral report and an update on the renovations committee

Committee adjourned at 6:53 P.M.

Scouts BSA Troop 158B & G Annual Fundraiser

The Interactive Dinner Theater, "For Heaven's Sake", presented by the ACT II Community Theater, and Spaghetti Dinner served by the Scouts BSA Troops 158 B & G, is being held on **Friday, April 8**. Dinner starts promptly at 6 p.m., with the show starting at 6:45 p.m. The event cost is \$15 per person and it is being held at the



American Legion Hall,
1230 Edwards Street, in Albion.
RESERVATION ARE REQUIRED.
The deadline for reservations is
Monday, April 4.

Tickets can be ordered through Scoutmaster,
David Huber —

text or cell phone: 207.608.2571;

e-mail: mrweldo2@gmail.com

Please provide Name, Phone# and Number of
Tickets.



Financial Update

The work of the church happens because of your faithful giving. That giving allows us to engage in mission and ministry both here in Albion and around the world. This update will give you a sense of where are financially, and the way we organize our church funds. These numbers are an important snapshot of our health and how we are living out our call. But they do not include all the ways in which folk give to our church, including numerous hours volunteering in-kind donations, giving to specific mission projects, and prayers. Thank you again for all you do to live out your baptismal covenant to support the mission and ministry of our Church.

Our operating fund collects pledged and non-pledge giving, and pays for staff, programming, and most ongoing building expenses, such as utilities and insurance.

Operating Fund: 2022 Year to Date

Total Income:	\$44,797
Total Expenses:	\$39,323

Our *House by the Side of the Road* fund takes in pledged giving and sometimes grants. It is our primary benevolence fund, and goes mainly toward helping people in need of utility assistance.

HBSR: 2022 Year to Date

Total Income:	\$913
Total Expenses:	\$1,796
Number of people helped:	80
Grant Income (left from 2021 Albion/Homer United Way):	\$1,833
Total Expenses:	\$1,822
Number of people helped:	79

Our trustees fund takes in money through pledged giving, rents from tenants, and fees for building use. This fund pays for maintenance and building improvements, such as repairing the cupola over Tennant Lounge, removing bats from the 3rd floor attic, repairing air conditioning units, and creating new signage.

Trustees: 2022 Year to Date

Total Income:	\$2,379
Total Expenses:	\$2,402

In future newsletters, we will provide some snapshots of how these funds are helping us build the Beloved Community here in Albion and around the world.

Last Call for Easter Flower Orders

If you are interested in providing flowers for our worship space on Easter Sunday, order forms are available on the table inside Tennant Hall or call the church office.



Cost: Lilies	\$14.00
Tulips	\$16.00
Daffodils	\$20.00

Order deadline (extended): Sunday, April 3

PIECEMAKERS II



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, April 5
10:00 - 11: a.m.
Fellowship Lounge

We're back on our schedule of meeting the first Tuesday of the month. It will be wonderful to be back meeting in person. Bring any project you'd like. Everyone is welcome.

Fellowship Supper and Program



We are happy to announce a Fellowship Supper opportunity on May 1st beginning at 5 PM. The program will be Ginny Garrison, executive director of Community Table of Albion, which oversees Albion's food pantry and fresh food distribution. Menu is a family classic - meatloaf, oven fries and green beans; pot-luck salads and desserts. Please join us! It will be joyful. RSVP to the church office or sign up in the bulletin as we get closer to the date.









Office Hours:

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

April 2022

Sunday

Worship 10:00 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3</p> <p>10a Worship - Communion</p> <p>2p Scouts BSA 158</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> <p>7p Scouts BSA 158</p> 	<p>5</p> <p>10a Piecemakers II</p> <p>4p Harry Bonner Meeting</p> 	<p>6</p> <p>7p Bell Choir</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>8a Bible Study</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 
<p>10</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>10a Worship</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> <p>7p Scouts BSA 158</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>1p UMW Meeting</p> <p>4p Harry Bonner Meeting</p> 	<p>13</p> <p>7p Bell Choir</p> 	<p>14</p> <p>Mundy Thursday</p> <p>8a Bible Study</p> <p>9:30a AALL Spring Assembly</p> <p>7p Worship</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 	<p>16</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 
<p>17</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>10a Worship</p> 	<p>18</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> <p>7p Scouts BSA 158</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>4p Harry Bonner Meeting</p> <p>7p SPRC Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>5p AC - PBK Initiation</p> <p>7p Bell Choir</p> 	<p>21</p> <p>8a Bible Study</p> <p>12p Blood Drive</p> <p>6:30p Trustees</p> 	<p>22</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 	<p>23</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 
<p>24</p> <p>SCOUT SUNDAY</p> <p>10a Worship</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> <p>7p Scouts BSA 158</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>4p Food Distribution</p> <p>4p Harry Bonner Mtg</p> <p>7p AALL Africa Book Grp</p> 	<p>27</p> <p>7p Bell Choir</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>8a Bible Study</p> 	<p>29</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> <p>7p AC - Lavendar Graduation</p> 	<p>30</p> <p>12p Rust Belt Ramen</p> 