



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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Albion, MI 49224

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Some Updates

Greetings all -

Ministry in this day and age requires a great deal of flexibility and nimbleness. The world is changing at a fast pace, and we have to adjust sometimes. Sometimes these adjustments are hard, like the changes we've had to make around Covid. But sometimes, there is the opportunity for new ventures, such as our renovation project. So I wanted to give you some updates on where we stand in this new year on a couple of fronts.

Covid: Right now, we hope to be back for in-person worship by February 13, 2022. I know this has been a hard time when we couldn't be in person. I have felt this personally as first we needed to isolate at Michael tested positive for Covid, and now we have to quarantine our son Samuel who is considered exposed. Unfortunately, Covid will probably continue to create disruptions we will need to deal with.

Wesley Chapel Renovation: This month, the Church Council voted to approve repaving the driveway underneath our arch, and contract with Driven Design architects to work on the entrance and bathrooms for Wesley. That work is progressing and we are awaiting preliminary ideas. We hope to create at least two handicap accessible bathrooms, create a coat area near the entrance, and adjust our food service capabilities.

We are continuing to look at refurbishing our pews, making our chancel area handicap accessible, making the archway more inviting, improving audio/ visual capabilities of the chapel, improving windows, and improvements

February 2022

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

to the landscaping on the Oswego Street side. We will keep you updated as these projects move forward.

Boy Scouts: As you may have heard, the Boy Scouts of America has been involved in a bankruptcy process related to abuse claims. Because of concerns about liability, the Conference recommended churches that charter troops to adjust that relationship. This past Fall, our local Boy Scout troop became officially chartered by the American Legion, and we signed facilities use agreement that allows the troops to continue to use our space as we they have. We will also continue to support the troop through our worship, prayers, and support as we have before. If you further questions about this, please let me know.

As you can see, a lot of things are in flux. In the midst of this, I continue to rest in the hope of the one who loves us, who saves us, and who leads us forward.

Peace,

Pastor Joel

Current Message Series

On February 6, Pastor Joel will begin a new message series called:

"The 4 L's of a Better Life"

February 6 Love

Love God and neighbor as the foundation of Christian life



February 13 Laughter

Finding laughter in our relationship with God

February 20 Learning

Growing in knowledge of God and God's creation



February 27 Legacy

Looking at what we leave behind



Prayers

Alice Cook, Jan Fourn, Pastors Joel and Erin and family, Allen Knight, Cindy Herriman Baird, Eric Rice, Gayle Evans, Fred and Shelly Wilder, Marilyn Hennon, Julia Landon, Tom Hartwell, Kelly Wilder, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Brett (Hilda's nephew), Joe Jackson, Eva Rottenbiller, Terry Bobzien, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home



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

Friends battling cancer: Troy and Audrey

PIECEMAKERS II



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, March 1
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Lounge

We were sorry to cancel the February meeting as we all look forward to gathering and working together. However, one of the joys of our group is that we can work on projects at home. Please continue to knit or crochet dishcloths. Also, Marilyn Sprinkle got a new pattern...one of the women working at the thrift store where she works in Florida brought in a knit scrubby that Marilyn is anxious to try....maybe we can make some of those as well!

We'd like to add other projects for the upcoming year - maybe even some one-time projects at individual meetings! So, give it some consideration and come join us in March! All are welcome.

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

UMW News and Views

A BIG THANK YOU to Alice Cook for her many years of service as Treasurer for UMW. Polly Moore has graciously accepted the responsibilities of the Treasurer position with the approval of the membership.



Happy 92nd Birthday, Alice Cook, on January 30!

Look for e-mail updates regarding:

- a February meeting
- the District Prayer Meeting in March

Information will be sent out closer to the actual dates.

Blessings always,
Donna Williams and Anne Lake

Many thanks...

...to all who answered my call for your plastic shopping bags. Your bag of bags makes the volunteers job at the Community Table Food Drive so much easier! Keep in mind that this is a need that will be ongoing so continue to bring them to services or call Tami Oliver at 517-366-0313 to arrange a pick-up.



We Need Your Help...

If you are not receiving worship e-mails, please check you spam folder. We have encountered some people who are not receiving the worship e-mail messages and we don't want to miss anyone. Additional information about changes to the worship schedule, etc. are sometimes conveyed with the Sunday message. If you are not receiving these message and do not find our e-mails in your spam folder, please contact the church office so that we can make sure we have the most up-to-date information and can reach you.

SPRC Meeting Minutes

Summary of December 14, 2021 SPRC meeting

Meeting was held December 14, 2021.

All committee members were in attendance.

Meeting minutes from November and the agenda for the December meeting were presented and approved.

There was a discussion, review and approval of Christmas bonuses for church staff.

The SPR Committee discussed some communications challenges and the need to better define lines of communication.

Job descriptions and job duties for all staff will be reviewed and approved in 2022.

The committee agreed to have the staff conduct a self-evaluation as part of their annual evaluation.

The SPR Committee discussed some personnel matters.

The SPR Committee was provided with an update on Rust Belt Ramen proposed use of the kitchen for their food prep and associated takeout business.

Pastor Joel presented his goals for the Church and himself for the upcoming year.

There was a short discussion on the impact of COVID on worship services and plans to return to worship in Wesley Chapel.

Andy provided an update on the Church Leadership gathering from early December.

Parking lot accessibility issues were discussed. Pastor will look in the files for any agreements with the college.

The next SPRC meeting will be January 25, 2022 at 7 PM as a Zoom Meeting.















Office Hours:

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

Sunday

Worship 10:00 am

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6p IVCF Game Night 	3 8a Bible Study 	4	5
6 10a Worship - ONLINE and Streaming	7 7p Scouts BSA 158 	8	9 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	10 8a Bible Study 6:30p Trustees Meeting 	11	12
13 10a Worship - Communion 	14 Valentine's Day 6:30p Scouts-Webloes 7p Scouts BSA 158  	15	16 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	17 8a Bible Study 	18	19
20 10a Worship	21 President's Day Church Office Closed 7p Scouts BSA 158 	22 4p Food Distribution 7p SPRC Meeting 	23 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	24 8a Bible Study 	25	26
27 10a Worship 11:30a Finance Committee	28 7p Scouts BSA 158 