



# 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

## Let's Try This Again, Again

We come to a new year, and again are having to deal with this pandemic. As I have mentioned in church, we may need to change our mitigation efforts depending on how the Omicron variant effects our area. As has been the case with this pandemic, things may need to change quickly. We will let you know as soon as we can.

With all of the uncertainty and change related to the pandemic, our collective ability to cope has been depleted. When we are stressed and anxious, our problem-solving abilities go down. This can result in an increase in conflict. This is true when stress is acute, and all the more so in situations like we are living through, where stress becomes endemic.

So this January, we are going to spend some time in worship thinking about conflict. Dealing with conflict in a healthy, Christ-like way is hard enough in the best of times. And as noted, this is not the best of times. So we'll look at how Christ taught us to deal with conflict and some concrete steps we might take toward reconciliation.

So whether we are in-person, online, or somewhere in-between, I invite you to check into worship. Take an hour on Sunday and worship with us. See how Christ might be calling you into deeper faithfulness.

Peace,  
Pastor Joel

## January 2022

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*Follow Jesus; Love Everyone*

## Current Message Series

On January 9, Pastor Joel will begin a new message series called: **"Rule of Christ"**



- January 9      The Middle Way**  
Resisting the fight or flight response and engaging with conflict
- January 16      Looking in the Mirror**  
Being reflective about our own role in conflicts
- January 23      Talk It Out**  
Talking through conflict in a Christ-like way
- January 30      Love Always**  
How to handle conflicts that are unresolvable

## Prayers

Jan Fourn, Eric Rice, Gayle Evans, Fred and Shelly Wilder, Marilyn Hennon, Julia Landon, Tom Hartwell, Kelly Wilder, Hilda Ebbinghaus, 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

## 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...

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.



## PIECEMAKERS II

Next Meeting:  
**Tuesday, February 1**  
**10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Wesley Lounge**



Dishcloths were handed out on multiple Food Distribution Tuesdays in December. The office has received several calls regarding the dishcloths. Your handiwork has been well received, with some people even asking if they can purchase them. We have stayed true to the original intent of giving them, but wanted you to know how much they are appreciated!

Piecemakers will not be meeting formally in January. However, work will continue at home, with meetings resuming in February. You'd be pretty safe to continue to knit or crochet dishcloths, but 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 February! All are welcome.



## UMW News and Views

**INGATHERING.** On behalf of United Methodist Women, I would like to thank everyone who participated in our "Ingathering Program. We have collected over \$ 2800 so far. Checks have been sent out to the group that made up the \$2,200 list. All money after the first \$2,200 will be split equally between Albion Community Gardens and Safe Place.

It's not too late to participate. Make your check out to UMW with Ingathering in the memo line. Thank you for supporting our community.

Darlene Chisholm

On January 11, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., we will hold a *Looking Ahead* meeting, both in-person in Fellowship Lounge and via ZOOM. The link will be sent out closer to the actual date.

Blessings always,  
 Donna Williams and Anne Lake

**Office Hours:**















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

Friday 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Sunday**

Worship 10:00 am

# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> 10a Joint Worship in Goodrich - Communion 11:30a Fitzgerald Family	<b>3</b> 7p Scouts BSA 158 	<b>4</b> 4p Finance Committee	<b>5</b> 7p Bell Choir 	<b>6</b> 8a Bible Study 	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 10a Worship 11:15a Church Council	<b>10</b> 6:30p Scouts-Webloes 7p Scouts BSA 158 	<b>11</b> 1p UMW Meeting 	<b>12</b> 7p Bell Choir 	<b>13</b> 8a Bible Study 9:30a AALL Winter Assembly 6:30p Trustees 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 10a Worship	<b>17</b> MLK JR. DAY 7p Scouts BSA 158 	<b>18</b>	<b>7p</b> Bell Choir 	<b>20</b> 8a Bible Study 12p Blood Drive 	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 10a Worship	<b>24</b> 6p SPRC 7p Scouts BSA 158 	<b>25</b> 4p Food Distribution 7p SPRC Meeting 	<b>26</b> 7p Bell Choir 	<b>27</b> 8a Bible Study 	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10a Worship	<b>31</b> 7p Scouts BSA 158 