



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

(517) 629-9425

Caring for God's Creation

This month we are continuing our sermon series on Creation Care. Creation Care is how we as Christians understand our calling from God to care for the natural world around us. We are called to care for creation for 3 main reasons:

- **God Cares About Creation:** As I talked about on Sunday, God cares deeply about the created order, about the natural world. The scriptures are replete with examples of how God includes the natural world both because we depend upon it, and in its own right as a creation of God
- **We Care About Creation:** In our modern world, we often pretend that we can be sequestered off from nature, that the environment has no impact on us. Yet as the news makes all too clear, we are integrally connected with the world around us. Whether the water we drink or the air we breathe, our personal health and economic well-being depends on the creation.
- **Other's Care About Creation:** Besides loving God, our other primary command from God is to love others as our self. We show our love for others through providing clean water to the people of Flint, by creating air that all people can breathe, by concerning ourselves with how our brothers and sisters in Europe, Asia, and Africa, are being impacted by a changing climate.

As we explore why we should care about creation, we are also going to explore the ways in which we haven't, and some concrete ways in which we can continue to care for creation.

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

My most visceral experiences of God's presence, and of God's call on my life, happened on the dunes of Lake Michigan UM camp and by the clear waters of Lake Louise Christian Community. My hope is that all of us can work together so those places remain pristine for my boys to experience the divine.

Peace,
Pastor Joel

Current Message Series

Pastor Joel's current message series is entitled: **Creation Care**. It focuses 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

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.



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



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

Bill Maynard, brother of Larry Maynard, passed away on Friday, April 15, from injuries sustained in a serious car accident several weeks ago. Please keep Larry, Carol, Lynn, L.D., and the entire family in your thoughts and prayers.



PIECEMAKERS II



Next Meeting:
Tuesday, May 3
10:00 - 11: a.m.
Fellowship Lounge

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

United Women in Faith



Alphabet soup, anyone? I got the letters mixed up in last month's Spire article. Did you figure out that the first set was not correct? I am not sure what UMF is! UMW will stay in our memories for a long while, I think, but here are some explanations for some of the initials you might not have remembered or never known. WSCS was Woman's Society of Christian Service (1968-72). Wesleyan Service Guild existed along with WSCS until United Methodist Women came into existence. W-a-a-a-y back, Women's Foreign Missionary Society existed along with Ladies Aid Society, the latter mainly as local church women who were concerned with church and parsonage furnishings, food, and local aid to the needy. Now we are **United Women in Faith**.

A few of us met in April to share a little bit of praying, Bible study, planning (a visit to the Community Table?) wishing (there would be more of us), thinking that it was so good to be together, and we hoped we could meet again in June or July for our Summer Refresher. We are looking for a willing hostess.

Pledges to Mission are always needed to fulfill the work of serving women, children, and youth around the world and keeping us informed and encouraged to take care of our earth, grow in our faith, and work toward promoting peace and eliminating injustice in our world. Polly Moore is our Treasurer.

Look up United Women in Faith on Facebook. You will find local, district, conference and national posts. Our district is Heritage District in the Michigan Conference.

May 20-22, 2022 I will be attending United Women in Faith Assembly virtually. The actual venue is Orlando, FL. "Turn it up!" is the theme...Turn it up for spiritual healing and renewal, for rebirth in new time, for women leaders, for justice for women, children and youth. Let me know if you'd like to have a few watch times together.

Faithfully,
Donna (and Anne)

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



Finance Update

In this space, we hope to regularly share both where we are financially, and how your giving impacts ministry. Last month we shared some basic year-to-date finance information. The next couple of months, we are going to share some about what those numbers represent. This month we are going to talk about the Welcoming Spaces fund.

Welcoming Spaces is one of our pledged funds that goes toward upkeep and maintenance of our building. Besides pledges, this fund also receives the rent payments from our tenants and any use-fees from people using our space.

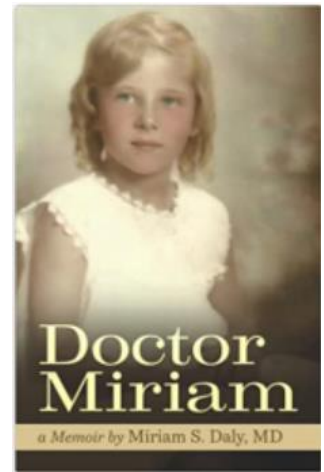
Welcoming Spaces does what the name says: it makes sure our building is a welcoming space for all in our community. This means doing regular maintenance, such as making sure our elevator is working. It means repairing our air systems so our building is comfortable.

But as you may know, our building is very large and getting a little old. This means major repairs are starting to come due. So, in the past two years Welcoming Spaces has helped repair the cupola over Tennant Lounge, updating the nursery, fixing various leaky pipes and toilets, and removing our bat friends from the attic on the third floor.

Because of your generosity, we are able to provide a welcoming space for the important work of Harry Bonner and Cradle connections. We are able to provide a kitchen for a restaurant start-up, we are able to provide large space for our BSA troop. In our city where the built infrastructure has seen the results of deindustrialization, our building has been a place where people from the community, the college, and the church are able to gather in comfort and safety.

Dr. Miriam's New Book

Former longtime member of Albion FUMC, Miriam S. Daly, MD, has written her memoir. It started as an assignment for Albion Area Lifelong Learners (AALL) and continued in a creative writing course at Chelsea Retirement Community. When her son, John, discovered she had 52 stories about her life as a physician, wife, mother, and girl scout, they organized them into a book called "Doctor Miriam: a Memoir".



Dr. Miriam has some amazing stories! Her memoir covers growing up in Baltimore, attending the University of Maryland Medical School when only 10% of the class were allowed to be women, interning at Lutheran Hospital in Baltimore, moving to Albion, MI, practicing medicine for 44 years, a trip up the Alaska Highway when it was still 1000 miles of gravel road, and finally retirement in Chelsea. "Doctor Miriam" is available at Stirling Books in Albion. In addition, both paperback and Kindle editions are available from Amazon.com.

Submitted by Nancy J. Daly
Miriam Daly's daughter-in-law

Sunday Schedule:








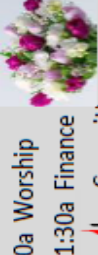

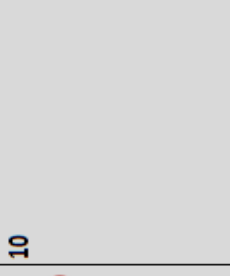




















10:00 Worship

11:00 Refreshments

Office Hours:

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

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 SCOUT SUNDAY 10a Worship - Communion 5p Fellowship Supper 	2 12p Rust Belt Ramen 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 6p AC Open Study Session 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	3 10a Piecemakers II 6p AC Open Study Session 7p SPRC Meeting 	4 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	5 8a Bible Study 	6 12p Rust Belt Ramen 	7 AC Commencement Lineup - Rain Site 12p Rust Belt Ramen 
8 MOTHER'S DAY 10a Worship 11:30a Finance Committee 	9 12p Rust Belt Ramen 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	10 	11 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	12 8a Bible Study 7p Trustees 	13 12p Rust Belt Ramen 	14 12p Rust Belt Ramen 
15 10a Worship 	16 12p Rust Belt Ramen 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	17 	18 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	19 8a Bible Study 12p Blood Drive 	20 12p Rust Belt Ramen 	21 12p Rust Belt Ramen 
22 10a Worship 	23 12p Rust Belt Ramen 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	24 3p Food Distribution 7p SPRC Meeting 	25 4p SAPS Grant Meeting 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	26 8a Bible Study 	27 12p Rust Belt Ramen 	28 12p Rust Belt Ramen 
29 10a Worship 	30 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed 12p Rust Belt Ramen 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	31 