



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

600 East Michigan Avenue

Albion, MI 49224

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Saints

On October 31, we are going to be celebrating All Saints Day. All Saints is a time to recognize the people in our life who had a meaningful impact on us. The people who led us in the faith. The people who loved us no matter what.

The saints I've been thinking of recently are my grandparents Don and Margaret Pier. Don and Margaret raised my mother and her 5 siblings in Beloit Wisconsin, a classic mid-western factory town that hosted a small college. They had grown up nominally Presbyterian, but in the post-war years, the Methodists were planting churches in booming towns and suburbs. So my grandparents were invited to be a part of one such new faith community. Don and Margaret became charter members of Christ Methodist Church in Beloit.

They faithfully attended, had their kids baptized, and most importantly, lived out the faith they were taught in church. Because of that faithfulness, one of their daughters became a United Methodist pastor. Three others remain faithful leaders in their own UM congregations. And three of Don and Margaret's grandkids became United Methodist pastors.

This all happened because two things came together. There was a church that welcomed Don and Margaret into ministry. And Don and Margaret responded faithfully.

What got me thinking, though, is that Christ UMC in Beloit followed the path of many such churches. After the booming years, those midwestern factory towns began to decline. People stopped having as many kids. And

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

eventually, after 65 years of ministry, Christ UMC closed its doors.

Now we often think about decline and the closing of a church as sad at best and a failure at worst. We try to explain what went “wrong.”

But I think that’s not the right way to look at it. Christ UMC was not able to continue as a worshipping community in a building much beyond half a century. Yet the legacy of those faithful people lives on. It lives on in my cousins whose parents met at the UM campus ministry in Madison. It lives on in the chaplains trained by my cousin in Milwaukee. It lives on in ministry to people in Nashville, Albion, and Minneapolis. It lives on not in a building or in structures, but in a living, integral faith that was nurtured in a small town and an unassuming house.

So as we celebrate the saints who have gone before, it is good for us to remember what was, the church that used to be. And sometimes there will be grief about how much has changed. But we should also look to what has continued on. To the lives those saints have impacted. To the impact far beyond the time and space of one church. To the ways that God’s kingdom is continuing to unfurl because of their faithful witness.

Peace,
Pastor Joel



UMW News and Views

You are invited to meet with Albion FUMC United Methodist Women on **Tuesday, November 9, at 1 p.m.**, in **Fellowship Lounge**. Polly Moore will present the World Thank Offering program. Come prepared to contribute to the offering.

Stay tuned for Ingathering news. We are planning to share a portion of Sunday morning worship later in the year with the whole congregation.

Blessings always,
Donna Williams and Anne Lake

Current Message Series

November 7 I am the most humble
Adopting an attitude of humble service

November 14 Where are we going, and why are we in this handbasket?

Remaining faithful amidst troubles

November 21 It's Already Here
Living into the reign of Christ



Starting on November 28, Pastor Joel will begin a new message series called:

“Looking at the Christmas Story from Different Perspectives”

November 28 Joseph
Making integrous decisions even when its hard

December 5 Mary
Making courageous decisions to follow God's lead

December 12 The Animals
All creation's participation in God's redemption story

December 19 Shepherds
God's story for all people



December 26 Rev. Dale Miller will be gracing our pulpit.

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.



Prayers

Eric Rice, Dottie Kammer, Gayle Evans, Fred and Shelly Wilder, Marilyn Hennon, Julia Landon, Tom Hartwell, Kelly Wilder, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva Rottenbiller, Joe Jackson, and Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home



Terry Bobzien @ U of M Hospital, Ann Arbor
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, Audrey, Tom

PIECEMAKERS II

Tuesday, November 2

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Wesley Lounge



During our November meeting, the dishcloths will be gathered and made ready to have tags with good wishes and candy canes attached. Carolyn Gaswick is heading up the process of making the dishcloths more festive and Connie Peltier is heading up the distribution process. If you would like to assist or have any questions, please contact either Carolyn or Connie.

There will also be brainstorming with discussion about ongoing projects. You'd be pretty safe to continue to knit or crochet dishcloths, but we'd like to add others projects for the upcoming year. We even had some idea of having one time projects at some meetings. Maybe quilting will make a comeback. We know you have some great ideas too. All are welcome to join us, so give it some consideration.

Piecemakers will not be meeting in December or January. However, work will continue at home, with meetings resuming in February.

Wesley Renovation Update

How we got here:

Renovating Wesley Chapel and Lounge has been a part of our broader building upgrade plans for a couple of decades. As many know, we have also received two significant bequests that have been designated for use to renovate Wesley.

Why we're here:

Wesley Chapel and Lounge have not had any major updates since they were constructed in the mid-50's. In looking at our church's mission and vision, we decided the space needed to be more accessible, visible, hospitable, and usable. This includes improving the bathrooms, accessibility in Wesley Chapel, and the visibility and accessibility of the archway.

Where we are now:

The team has met with two architects. Our next meeting is Sunday November 7 after church. We will discuss whether we want to move forward with one of the architects we've interviewed. If so, we will send a recommendation to Church Council. Our other work has been in setting priorities. The team's top priorities are accessibility changes to the chancel in Wesley Chapel, upgrading the bathrooms in Wesley Lounge, and visibility and accessibility improvements to the archway and entrance. We have not made any final decisions. Finally, the team discussed financing. At this point, we felt most comfortable keeping our budget to the money we have from bequests. As we get into the design process, we will continue to reevaluate the budget needs of the project.

What's next:

- Meet to discuss which architect to move forward with.
- Propose an architect to Church Council to move forward with
- Begin meeting with architect to generate design possibilities

This process will probably take a while as we wrestle with design choices.

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Who's on the team:

Cheryl Krause, Barb Lange, Drew Dunham, Sharon Hostetler, Nidia Wolf, Tami Oliver, Ellen Wilch, Steve Noble, Pastor Joel, Jan Fourn, Judy Patton

What can you do:

Pray for the team and its work. Pray for how we can use the space for God's mission. Keep updated on our work.



From the Missions Committee...

The General Board of Global Ministries supports UNICEF's global vaccine distribution efforts to end the COVID-19

pandemic. Advance Special #3022671 has been created for fundraising for this effort to ensure that 100% of donations go directly to UNICEF USA for this project. For just \$37 dollars, members can help provide 10 people with two doses of the vaccine.

Funds donated to a new Advance giving project will support "Love Beyond Borders: The Interfaith Movement to End the Pandemic" campaign supporting UNICEF's global vaccine distribution efforts.

You can give through Albion FUMC by writing a check to Albion First United Methodist Church and putting "vaccines" on the memo line or on your envelope.

Blessings,
Donna



All Saints 2021



We remember:

Kenneth Roger Bentley

June 23, 1935 - May 17, 2021

Raymond Lee Campbell

July 12, 1937 — September 4, 2021

James Wyatt Cook

September 8, 1932 - April 2, 2021

Mary Louise Delamarter

March 31, 1937 — September 19, 2021

Ronald C. Rice

Jun 16, 1941 - Apr 27, 2021

Susanne (Mapes) Sullivan

November 5, 1940 — June 23, 2021



Hanging of the Greens Starts Holiday Season

Get in the spirit of the Advent and Christmas seasons. The fun and fellowship begins at **4:30 p.m.** on **Sunday, November 28**, followed by a **Soup and Salad pot luck and carol singing**. Please notify the office if you plan to attend. There are trees to decorate, garlands to drape, and nativity scenes to arrange, so bring your energy and enthusiasm and join in the fun.



Poinsettias

Poinsettias will again adorn our worship space on Christmas Eve this year. If you would like to provide one or more, forms will be available on the table at the back of Tennant Hall and in the church office. The plants are yours to keep following the service. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office. Cost is **\$10.00 per plant** and the available colors are red, white, and pink. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 2.**



Lessons and Carols - Sunday, December 5, 2021



The Albion College Music Department's tradition continues this year with the beloved Lessons and Carols programs on Sunday, December 5, at 7:00 p.m. in Goodrich Chapel

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was designed by Archbishop E. W. Benson for use in the cathedral at Truro, England. The first formal event was held there on Christmas Eve, 1880. The late David L. Strickler introduced a modified service to Albion College in 1966.

It's Time to Order Disciplines Devotionals for 2022

Please notify the office if you are interested in purchasing this book of daily reflections. The deadline for orders is Sunday, November 14. Prices are as follows:

Regular Print \$ 16.00

Large Print \$ 21.00



Sunday Schedule:


















10:00 Worship

11:00 Refreshments

Office Hours:

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

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 8a Election Setup 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	2 ELECTION DAY 7a Special Election 10a Piecemakers II 	3 8a Election Teardown 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	5 8p Intervarsity Christian Fellowship 	6
7 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS  10a Worship - Communion 11a Wesley Rennovation Team	8 6:30p Scouts Webloes 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	9 1p UMW Circle Meeting 	11 VETERANS DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 8a Bible Study 6:30p Trustees 	12 8p Intervarsity Christian Fellowship 	13
14 10a Worship	15 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	16	17 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 	19 8p Intervarsity Christian Fellowship 	20
21 10a Worship	22 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	23 4p Food Hub Distribution 	18 8a Bible Study 9:30a AALL Board of Directors 12p  Blood Drive 	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27
28 10a Worship	29 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158 	30	25 THANKSGIVING DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10a Loomis Family Thanksgiving 11a Westbrook Family Thanksgiving 