



The SPIRE

First United Methodist Church

www.albionfirst.org

find us on Facebook

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Transitions

September is often a time of transitions. It is traditionally the start of school and college. In church life, especially in the northern climes, it is when we move from the lull of summer into the church “program” year, with classes and program starting up. So, as we as a church and society have dealt with a lot of transitions recently, I thought it would be good for us to look at transitions.

The business guru William Bridges talks about the delineation between a change and transition. For Bridges, a change is a one-time event. You are not a student until the first day of school, then you are. You are not employed until the first day on the job, then you are. You are not married, then on your wedding day you are. Transitions, on the other hand, are the emotions that surround any given change. And transitions can affect us long before and long after a given change. For instance, the month’s leading up to a wedding are filled with much work and emotions. Likewise, the months and years after a wedding involve a lot of work and emotions as the couple lives into this new normal.

So while a change happens all at once, the transition will often last months to years. We don’t often attend to this emotional reality. We experience a change, and then want to quickly “move on.” Yet our emotions have the pesky habit of not moving on. They can stick around, and if we don’t address them, they can affect other areas of our life.

So this month in worship we are going to look at the emotions we have during times of transition. We’ll look at the grief we

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Follow Jesus; Love Everyone

experience with a change. We'll look at how change often produces anxiety. We'll also see how transitions can produce hope and excitement.

Change is something we often cannot control. But what we can control is how we respond to the natural emotions around that change. I encourage you this month to prayerfully reflect on what transitions have occurred in your life and how you have responded.

Peace,
Pastor Joel

Current Message Series

Starting on September 5, Pastor Joel will begin a new message series called:

"Navigating the Transitions of Life"

September 5 Grief

Changes mean transitions, which require a letting go of what was

September 12 Anxiety

Transitions create anxiety, which can cause us to lose focus and seek easy answers

September 19 Excitement

Transitions allow space for excitement about new things God can do

September 26 Hope

Transitions end in a new beginning and a hope for the future

Prayers

Ray Campbell, Gayle Evans,
Terry Bobzien, Fred and Shelly
Wilder, Marilyn Hennon, Julia
Landon, Tom Hartwell, Kelly
Wilder, Hilda Ebbinghaus, Eva
Rottenbiller, Joe Jackson, and
Pastor Tom Hollowood @ home

Barb Stowell, Missy Wyss @ Maplewood,
Marshall

Lynne Baldwin @ Advantage Living and Senior
Care, Battle Creek



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

Prayers (continued)

Edward Sobie, Jr. @ Chippewa Correctional
Facility, Kincheloe

Donna Gaskell @ Copley, OH

Betty Beese @ Towsley Village, Chelsea



A Big Thank You

Thank you to all of you who contributed children's books during the recent Book Drive! The Book Drive provided a very good number of children's books. It has given us an opportunity to update our nursery library, as well as to contribute books to the Marshall UMC *THERE'S ENOUGH STORE*.

Everything is free to everyone at *THERE'S ENOUGH* which is located on Michigan Avenue in Marshall. The outreach of this store provides an opportunity to recycle items we no longer need. Donations are accepted on Tuesdays from 3-6 and Saturday from 10-1. The store is also open on Wednesday from 10-1. If you have items to donate, you may call (269) 282-9431 to be sure they are accepting donations as sometimes they are full to capacity. If you still have a book donation for our church nursery, it may be turned in at the office.



UMW Update

We will have our next meeting on September 14, at 1 p.m. in Fellowship Lounge. Lisa French will speak with us about Chelsea Retirement Community. Please save the date and plan to join us.

PIECEMAKERS II

Tuesday, September 7
10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Fellowship Lounge



Please note the change in the day of the month for the meetings. It has been agreed by those participating that the meetings will now take place on the first Tuesday of each month.

Great progress has been made in our 'dishcloth project.' We are very close to 200 dishcloths completed. Anyone is welcome to join us for knitting and conversation.

Sunday Schedule:

10:00 Worship

11:00 Refreshments

Office Hours:

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

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 8a Bible Study	3	4
5 10a Worship - Communion 	6 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	7 10a Piecemakers II 	8	9 8a Bible Study 9:30a AALL Fall Assembly 	10	11
12 10a Worship	13 6:30p Scouts Webloes 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	14 1p UMW Circle Meeting	15	16 8a Bible Study 12p  Blood Drive 6:30p Trustees	17	18 2p AC Inauguration Luncheon 3p AC Inauguration Lineup 
19 10a Worship	20 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	21	22	23 8a Bible Study	24	25
26 10a Worship 11:15a Wesley Renovation Team	27 7p Scouts BSA Troop 158	28 3p Food Distribution 7p SPRC 	29	30 8a Bible Study		