

The Arbor Vine

Ann Arbor District of The United Methodist Church
Rev. Mark E. Spaw, District Superintendent

November 2014

*The Information you need -
in digital format*

The Conference Journal

The Journal is not yet available in paper form. It will be mailed when it is printed. However, you can access the Journal for viewing and for download at the following link:

<http://detroitconference.org/pages/detail/2171>

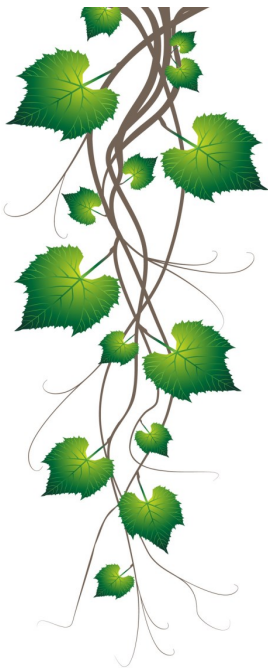
The Spotlight Church Booklet

Each church will receive two printed copies of the Spotlight Church booklet when they are printed, but it is available now in digital form at:

[http://www.detroitconference.org/console/files/oForms_YJ7JB6/
Spotlight_Church_2014_ZCJEJRSJ.pdf](http://www.detroitconference.org/console/files/oForms_YJ7JB6/Spotlight_Church_2014_ZCJEJRSJ.pdf)

The District Directory

And last but not least, the Ann Arbor District Directory is attached to this email, allowing you to search for names and addresses with ease.



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DISTRICT NOTICES

POSITION OPEN AT SALINE UMC

The full-time position, previously held by a Deacon in the Detroit Conference, is now open. The Staff Parish Committee is asking to employ either a Deacon or a lay person interested in a personal ministry of visitation, counseling and caregiving, as well as organizing parish and communion visitors and coordination congregational ministries such as Parish Nurses, Stephen Ministry, homebound visitation, and on-going community care/discipleship programs and events. If interested in additional information, please contact Dr. James Tuttle at 734-429-4730 or email to office@fumc-saline.org.

POSITION OPEN AT NORTH LAKE UMC

Children/Youth Ministry Coordinator position Approximately 10 hours per week, \$150 per week. North Lake UMC in Chelsea is looking for an innovative and enthusiastic Christian person who is organized, detail oriented, has experience with children, is flexible, and is available on Sundays. The staff person would be communicating with the Education team and the pastor in planning Sunday School and Youth group activities. The staff person would also be conceiving and implementing new Christian programming targeting children and youth and helping to coordinate volunteers for these programs. Resume to: pastor@northlakeumc.org

WEB MINISTRY 101

What Is Web Ministry? It is a self-directed, five-part online course designed to provide foundational information and the biblical and theological basis for developing a Web ministry for the local church. Together, the Web Ministry series of online courses will prepare you to create and maintain a dynamic Web ministry. The course begins on Nov 5. Information: <https://umctraining.org/course/49>.

HAITI NEWS

The current Haiti newsletter is at [haititaskforceeletternovember2014final.pdf](#)

JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON)

The newsletter for this UM Immigration Ministry of Southeast Michigan is at <http://us1.campaign-archive1.com/?u=14a96c6d65d5eeae3d8a076f0&id=0eda45911b&e=0a30447178>

PRAYER CONCERN

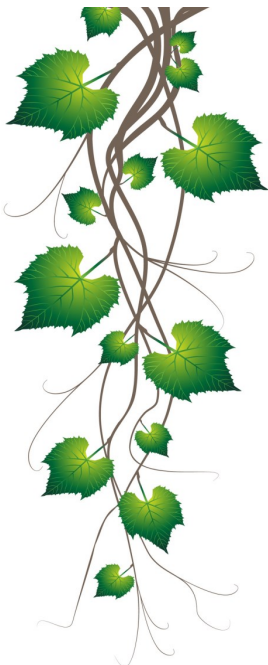
Pastors Merlin and Kay Pratt's daughter Renee has been in a very bad farming accident in Indiana and is in Methodist hospital in Indianapolis. Merlin and Kay are flying back from their mission work in Jamaica. Contact Diane Hatfield: 734-734-665-4066.

HEROIC STORIES

HeroicStories.com is a secular website that displays stories of people who have shown kindness and concern for others. You can subscribe to their daily emails. Some are old-fashioned in style but all are sincere.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Brad Lewis, former pastor at Monroe First and other places, has a new email address: bklewis2105@charter.net . His phone is 989-906-5213.



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Spaw's Paws

Some thoughts from your D.S., Rev. Mark E. Spaw

"Thank You God!"

Did you know that the Ann Arbor District has 85 clergy, 73 churches with 17,443 members? The average Sunday morning attendance for the District is over 9000 people. The largest church has 1455 members and the smallest 17. Over one million, four hundred and 32 thousand dollars were paid by our district churches in apportionments last year and over eight hundred thousand was given to missions by the Ann Arbor District churches. We have over 2,600 involved in Sunday school, 2,130 in UMW, 589 in UMM and over 800 in UMYF.

I have completed 32 of 73 Church Conferences and 28 of the 32 churches show vital signs of spiritual and numerical growth. The others are working hard on it. God is at work here. Thank you God!

I told you all of that to tell you this. . .the Christ spirit is alive and well in the Ann Arbor District, Detroit Annual Conference and in this wonder filled world that God has blessed us with. Prayer is power filled, spiritual formation is active and seeking God's will is our every day journey. Thank you God!

God has indeed called us and has given us what is needed to do God's work. We may not have all that others have, or all we wished we had, but we have what God wants us to have. Accept it, be faithful to use it, and in due time God will add to it and give us more. Let's give ourselves time to discover and develop our gifts. Accept NOTHING as a handicap. Turn it over to God and let God make a useful tool of it. After all that's what God did for each of Jesus' Disciples. Remember the old thorn in the side. Thank you God!

Because our work, both laity and Clergy, cannot be isolated from the lives we live, God prepares us for the work and the work for us, and if we permit God, God brings them together with God's Grace and in God's providence. God knows us better than we know ourselves. God would never put us into a ministry where the spirit of God would not build us and use us, never!

The Ann Arbor District is alive and well because of God and because of you. ALL of you! God is at work here. Thank you God!

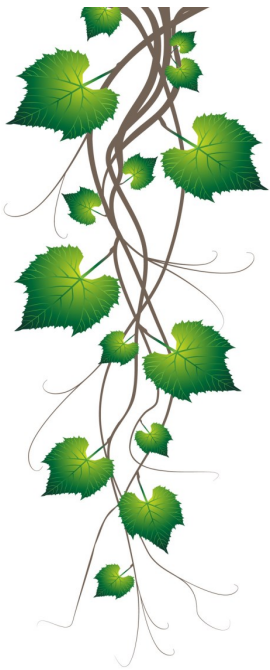
A very special thank you goes to our District Administrative Assistant Jane Pollock who ministers to all of you and helps me daily. When you stop by the office or call on the phone you know you have been blessed because in some way you've interacted with Jane. OUTSTANDING WORK. Thank you Jane!

We thank you, O Lord our God, for we are a blessed people you give so many wonderful opportunities and challenges and the gifts and graces to handle them all if only we will begin to look and appreciate the many resources you so generously provide. Help us O God in our work, both Laity and Clergy, to place you at the very center of all we do. Bless us, build us, use us as once again we go about your work and give us all that might be needed to be the people you call us to be. We ask all of this in the name of the living Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen!

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The letters are bold and connected, with a distinctive flourish at the end.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw



DEDICATED RECONCILING UNITED METHODISTS

There will be a potluck and program on Sunday Nov. 2 at 6:00 pm at Nardin Park UMC in Farmington Hills. The speaker is Rev. Matt Berryman, Exec Director of Reconciling Ministries Network, speaking on "The Journey to Inclusion." For information contact Karen Roth at karensmiles18@hotmail.com.

LOUD LECTURE AT THE WESLEY FOUNDATION FEATURING TERRY M. WILDMAN

Saturday, Nov 15 at 7:30 pm: In concert: Rainsong—Native American folk-rock songs with Terry and Darlene Wildman.
Sunday, Nov 16 at 3:00 pm: Terry Wildman will speak on "Sign Language, a look at the historic and prophetic landscape of America."
Ann Arbor First UMC. For more information call 734-662-4536.

CARLETON UMC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZARR

Saturday, Dec 6, 10:00-2:00. Cookies, fresh greens, crafts, luncheon available. Call 734-654-2833.

HARVEST DINNER & AUCTION AT CHERRY HILL

A benefit for Habitat for Humanity. Nov. 1: Harvest Dinner at 6 pm; Auction at 7 pm at Cherry Hill UMC, 321 S. Ridge Road, Canton, MI For reservations call 734-495-0035.

TRINITY MINI MALL & CRAFTS

Shop the Trinity Mini Mall & Crafts on November 8th from 10am-3pm at Trinity UMC 8201 Iosco Rd, Fowlerville. 10% of all money raised from the Party consultants and craft tables goes to the Missions of the church. This year the Silent Auction will have a queen size quilt made by the women of the church. Questions call 517-223-9601.

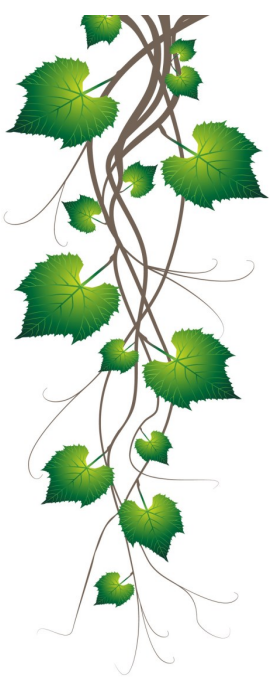
HARVEST DINNER, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT FIRST UMC OF ANN ARBOR

A traditional "Thanksgiving" dinner served 4:30-6:30 pm in Social Hall, 120 S. State St., Ann Arbor. Proceeds support UMC outreach projects. Tickets: Adults-\$15, Students \$10, Children \$5 and Family (parents and their children through high school)-\$50, Children age 3 and under - Free. Self-serve take-out will also be available during dinner service hours. For tickets or information contact the church office, 734-662-4536. Church website: www.fumc-a2.org

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 4 Susan Clemmer
Nov 6 Faye McKinstry
Nov 6 Monica William
Nov 6 Michael Beaudoin
Nov 7 Caroline Hart
Nov 8 Mike Norton
Nov 10 Charlotte Simmons
Nov 11 Aaron Kesson
Nov 12 William Smith
Nov 12 Sandra Olsen

Nov 13 Katie Wagonner
Nov 13 Florence Hammar
Nov 14 Sherry Parker
Nov 21 Barbra Franks
Nov 24 Judith DeGraw
Nov 24 Sam Pooley
Nov 26 Chuck Woolley
Nov 28 Karen & Al Bamsey
Nov 28 Sang Chun



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Liberia Summit 2014

This is a huge opportunity for people in our churches to get excellent, first-hand, expert insight on the work of the UMC in Liberia. I attended the first such "Liberia Summit" two years ago, and it was there that I made the personal connections that have developed into our John Dean Town Health Project. I promise you this will be worth your time. - Edie Wiarda, Ann Arbor District Liberia Task Force Chair

Liberian Summit November 13 and 14TH Narden Park UMC , 29887 West Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills ,MI 48336. Registration (\$90) on line at Detroit Conference website.

Detroit Conference Liberia Task Force Meeting 10 AM Thursday Nov.13th at Nardin Park prior to opening of Summit.

Evening worship services during Summit November 13 at 7pm Bishop John Innis Resident Bishop of Liberia will deliver the message.

Friday November 14th at 7pm ending Celebration with African Drum Corp from Second Grace UMC, local quartet "Inspiring Brothers" originally from Liberia and message delivered by Bishop Kieseey Detroit Conference Bishop.

NO REGISTRATION COSTS FOR EVENING WORSHIP!

If you have questions, contact Duane Miller at: duane@ddmiller.net or Kayte Aspray at: summitregistrar@detroitconference.org

Fight Ebola by Training Nurses

Drs. Tom & Karen Asher are missionaries from our area (out of the Wesleyan and United Methodist churches--West Ohio) who have been working in Sierra Leone for the last six years. They oversee 12 hospital/clinics (including United Methodist) in Sierra Leone. They are doing outstanding work and are now supporting a crowdsourcing project to train the nurses that are so urgently needed.

Learn more about it on their website at:

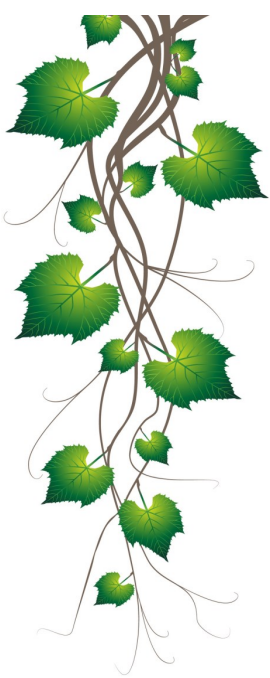
<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/fight-ebola-by-training-nurses-in-sierra-leone>.

For more information contact Rev. Tom Zimmerman at the Lambertville UMC at 734-847-3944.

Soul Shop - Ministering to Suicidal Desperation

Samaritan Counseling Center of Southeastern Michigan presents this training on Monday, Nov 17, 9:00 - 3:00 at Nardin Park UMC in Farmington Hills. \$70 includes snacks, lunch, and materials. Learn how to be truly present with someone in the depths of despair, how to convey hope and how to save lives. The trainer, J. Russell Crabtree, has trained thousands of people in suicide awareness and facilitated the development of suicide prevention plans with numerous community teams.

For information and registration call 248-474-4701.



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Marriage Encounter

Suggested Bulletin Announcements

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT (This Sunday)

TO MARRIED COUPLES. "When some friends suggested we attend a World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend, we were shocked and a little hurt. We were happily married and surprised that they thought we needed marriage counseling. When we mentioned how we felt they laughed and said they recommended the Weekend because they admired our relationship and thought we were a couple who likes to work on their marriage. Now I'm glad we experienced the weekend. I think we got a lot out of it because we put a lot into it." The next M-E Weekend is November 7-8-9 at Hilton Garden Inn, Plymouth, MI. Call Dean & Kathy Thompson, 734-260-3728 or thomkd@comcast.net or www.encounter.org. Registration fee is \$200

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT (next Sunday)

TO MARRIED COUPLES: "It was Becky's idea to go on a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend. I went along to avoid an argument. Boy, am I glad we did! We got so much out of it. It was the best gift we could have ever given our marriage." Next M-E weekend is Nov. 7-8-9 at Hilton Garden Inn, Plymouth, MI. Contact Dean & Kathy Thompson, 734-250-3728 or thomkd@comcast.net, or on line at www.encunter.org. Registration fee is \$200.

Joining the Journey with the Bishop

After a long period of listening and discernment, Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey has invited United Methodists in Michigan to join her on a journey. She asked members of the Detroit and West Michigan conferences to discern a new path for ministry in the state posing the question, "What new thing is God calling us to do in Michigan?"

All are invited to 5 listening sessions with the Bishop to discuss the following questions:

What are the compelling reasons for creating a totally new conference in Michigan?

What are the compelling opportunities?

What may be gained?

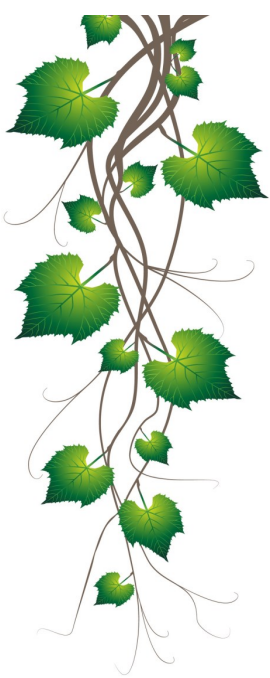
What concerns need to be considered?

What are some anticipated outcomes?

How will we listen for the anticipated losses?

How will we use the years ahead to dream and vision?

The meeting to be held in the Ann Arbor District will be on February 3, 2015, Tuesday, at Northville UMC, 6:30 until 8:00 pm.



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Reaching Out in Petersburg

Last year our church, Petersburg United Methodist, held a 25 cent per item Rummage Sale during our community's town celebration. We held it to raise more money to give to a family from our church who had sudden unexpected medical bills. There was naysaying about the price, prayers and thoughts how best to move forward as well as a giving spirit by our congregation and our community with donations and purchases. Many of the items were bought by people in need. One of our congregants donated her collection of stuffed teddy bears that were given to local children as they came in. The almost All Saints Dixieland Band played as we also sold hot dogs for the cause. We took in just over \$800 from a 25 CENT SALE! Clearly we didn't sell 20,000 items and in fact, because we had made everything so cheap, many gave well beyond the worth of what they were buying because it was a good cause. In fact, we had excess items that were given to local charities and a migrant camp.

This year, after one of our gals said her car took her to visit a Domestic Abuse Shelter, she inspired some of our gals to make pillow cases for pillows we bought and these were taken to the shelters in Monroe and Lenawee Counties for the children to use while they were there and to take with them afterwards. She also learned that since the moms came in on the run, with no household goods, they could use kitchen items. That led to us having a "kitchen shower" of sorts. We asked our congregation and community to donate kitchen items on Community Days. A full carload of items was taken to each shelter.

Respectfully submitting,
Irene Kecskes, Outreach Chair
Petersburg United Methodist Church

Ann Arbor District Office
of the United Methodist Church

900 S. Seventh St. Suite 1

Ann Arbor MI 48103

Return Service Requested



The Arbor Vine
