

The Arbor Vine

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

APRIL 2016

Ministry with the Elderly - A Questionnaire

The 2016 Leadership Training Day included a workshop on “Ministry with the Elderly”. The number of participants and the energy and expertise present in the room were impressive. There was so much interest that we wanted to follow up by inviting you to contribute your thoughts and identify your needs for Older Adult Ministries.

Our first step is an on-line survey, designed to help determine where the expertise and energy are across the entire district. We ask your help in providing that information through this survey.

The survey is open to all persons, clergy and laity, including multiple people from the same church. The goal is to find out what matters to you in the area of older adult ministries, as elders, caregivers, planners, and those who are simply considering their own future needs.

Here are the questions you will be asked, in case you want to consider them before you start the questionnaire. Only one entry per person is allowed.

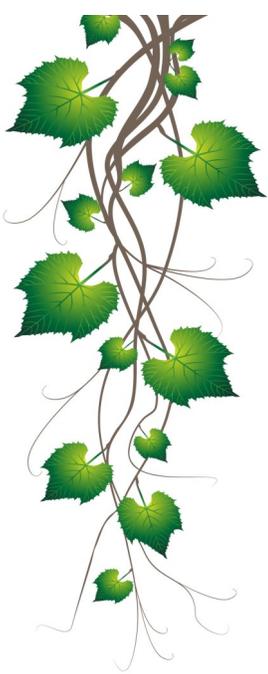
- 1. What are the needs that you observe in your congregation surrounding the issues of older adults?*
- 2. What ministries or programs or events is your congregation engaged in that support the needs of older adults?*
- 3. How might the Ann Arbor District be of help to your efforts?*
- 4. What is your role?*
- 5. Would you like to be contacted for more information?*

Follow this link to begin:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/796VZJ3>

When the questionnaire is finished, click on “Done” and close your browser. If you continue you will get an ad for SurveyMonkey, the program that created the survey. Our survey is finished at this point.

(continued on next page)



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The results will be collected and reported back to you in a later edition of *The Arbor Vine*. If you have any questions, contact Cathy Rafferty, workshop leader and Director of Spiritual Life at United Methodist Retirement Communities (crafferty@umrc.com).

Some of the topics of interest that came up in the workshop were:

Supporting caregivers/being a caregiver/receiving or accepting care – spouses, children caring for parents, friends, neighbors and congregations

Developing intergenerational ministries/connecting children and youth with older adults

Dementia/Alzheimer's – understanding it/relating or ministering to those with it/identifying support and resources

Parkinson's and other debilitating and/or terminal illness

Depression/isolation/loneliness/grief

Being in ministry with senior service providers in a church's community

Supporting elderly veterans/families/connecting them with younger veterans and those currently enlisted in the military and their families

Parish nursing programs

Understanding residential and supportive service options for older adults (PACE, assisted living, skilled nursing, home health, area agencies on aging, senior centers, etc.)

Technology and communications – how technology can support and connect older adults/how does it further isolate or leave some out

As a follow-up to the workshop, four participants got together to explore possible next steps to sharing the collective expertise and energy for ministry with older adults.

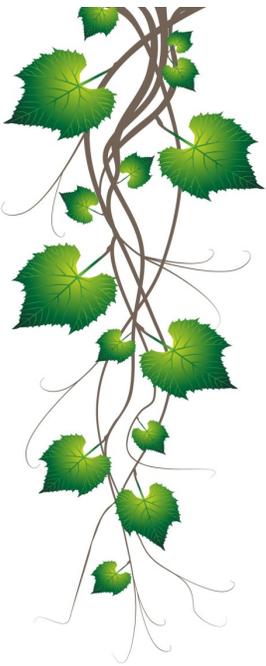
Jane Pollock, from the district office

Tina Zimmerman, on the event planning team and a part-time chaplain at Chelsea Retirement Community

Lisa French, from the United Methodist Retirement Communities Foundation

and Cathy Rafferty, workshop leader and director of Spiritual Life at Chelsea Retirement Community

This collaboration led to the development of the questionnaire on page one. Please contribute your needs and hopes for this important and growing part of our population.



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Spaw's Paws

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

A Letter of Appreciation for Jane Pollock on her Retirement

Remember the old cowboy song, "Home on the Range"? It sings of a place, "Where seldom is heard a discouraging word, and the skies are not cloudy all day." Working with Jane Pollock, the extraordinary Administrative Assistant, has made it a home on the range at the District Superintendent's office. It has been a privilege to work together for the past six years, despite having to work with me. Outstanding in ALL that she does as an Ad. Min. she is also gifted by God's Grace to minister to, counsel with, lovingly encourage, and never, and I mean NEVER say a discouraging word!

Can you image six years of encouragement, prayers, friendship, and outstanding professional work and attitude? It's not easy keeping up with her, but it sure has been fun! Jane you are a One-of-a-kinder! So now Jane retires! Bless you Jane Pollock!

I know all of you have experienced Jane in our office, at the store, at District Events and on the phone. You too have been blessed by her words of encouragement, signs of Grace, and been given new perspective and understandings through Jane's ministry. Something that I have been blessed to witness is Jane's God given ability, this gift, to share each day with a new appreciation for Grace upon Grace. For me this gift reminds me of God's promise that He would ALWAYS be with us!

We forget don't we? We forget in the midst of discouragement of our calling to follow Christ. Even after just experiencing the Easter Event, The Good News of our Lord and Savior, the Great Encourager tells us by His absence in the tomb and His presence in our lives that despite the daily news and the world's events, God will triumph and we are in God's Hands.

I know that as Jane retires she will indeed remain in God's Hands and our hearts.

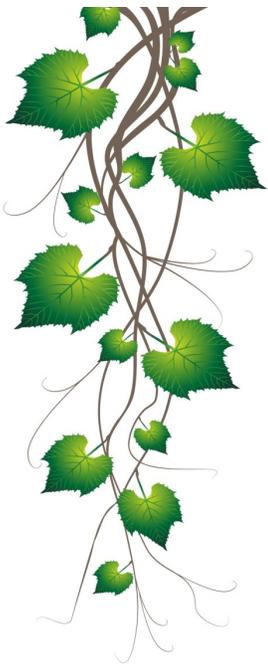
I hope and pray that this Easter Season will be all the encouragement we need to remind us, "He is risen, and we are in God's hands!"

In HIS Hands,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MARK". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a casual, personal feel.

P.S.

Thursday, April 28, will be Jane's last day in the office. Please stop by or call that week and wish her well and also meet our new Ad. Min. Darlene McGee who will be training with Jane that week.



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DISTRICT NOTICES

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION LEADER TRAINING

Saturday May 7 from 9:00 am to noon. John Wells will lead. Contact Chuck Woolley at cbwoolley@gmail.com.

HOME REPAIR MINISTRY

Cods Country Cooperative Parish has 3 openings for VIM teams this summer. The cost per person is \$225.00 person. This is home repair ministry in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The dates are June 19 - 25, June 26 - July 1 and August 1 - 6. Please feel free to call Randy Hildebrandt at cell (906) 235 - 3553.

PAID SUMMER INTERNSHIPS

Mission interns get eight weeks of in-depth training for \$2500. The start date is May 25. Visit www.missionintern.org.

HISPANIC YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

June 22-25 at Adrian College. HYLEA is committed to assisting Hispanic/Latino youth discover their relationship with God while encouraging their education and leadership skills. Contact Sonya Luna at sluna@detroitconference.org.

ENCOUNTERING THE GOD WHO HEALS

June 21-25 at Manistee UMC. The healing school is a 4.5 day event which combines cognitive, spiritual, and experiential components to help participants learn about healing and experience the Healing Christ. \$225. Info at mumc@t-one.net

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The Detroit Conference United Methodist Men will be meeting this spring on April 30, 2016. This meeting will feature Gil Hanke, General Secretary of the General Commission on United Methodist Men. West Branch UMC, West Branch, MI, has graciously agreed to host our day-long meeting.

VISITING BOYCHOIR BENEFIT CONCERT

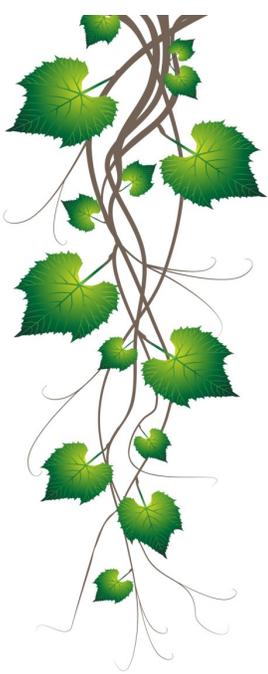
Is there anything as lovely as a children's choir? Le Petite Chantours de Laval will be visiting from Quebec on Thursday, April 7 at West Side UMC. Proceeds from a free will offering will support youth music ministries at the West Side Choir School.

OUR FIRE STILL BURNS, THE NATIVE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

St. Luke's in Rochester Hills will be a host church for this event on Saturday, April 9 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Sponsored by DAC Commission Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships. Contact St. Luke's at 248-373-6960.

SPRING BREAK IN ZIMBABWE

Wesley at U of M is holding a presentation to talk about our Spring Break trip to Zimbabwe. It will be on Saturday, April 9 at 7pm in the Ann Arbor First United Methodist Church sanctuary. We'll be talking about making connections at Africa University, the similarities and differences between higher education there and at U of M, wildlife and nature, church services in Zimbabwe, and our experiences visiting multiple orphanages.



Knitted Together in Love: A Prayer Shawl Retreat

Friday, May 6 at 6:00 pm to Sat, May 7 at 6:30 pm.

Come to Judson Collins Camp for a weekend of knitting, tatting, quilting, crocheting, and crafting! Beginners as well as veterans are welcome. Share your ideas for prayer shawl ministry, or learn how to get one started. Come for the whole event or just a part. \$60 per person (1 night/3 meals/snacks). \$45 for Saturday only.

Contact them at Judson.collins.center@gmail.com.

Listening Tour April 28

Bishop Kiesey is on a Listening Tour throughout the state to develop the future of the Michigan Area as two Conferences become one. The next meeting is on April 28, 6:30-8:30 at Memorial UMC in Gladstone MI. You are welcome to attend, to learn and to contribute your thoughts.

Annual Conference 2016

The General Conference schedule for this year has necessitated a change in the dates for the Annual Conferences in Michigan. Annual Conference will be held from Wednesday, June 8 to Sunday, June 12, 2016. It will be held on the Michigan State Campus in East Lansing. Registration is now open and all information is available at <http://2016.michiganumc.org>.

Easy Transportation to Annual Conference

The Michigan Flyer is a bus service that runs between East Lansing and Ann Arbor. One of the routes runs from the Ann Arbor bus station (across from the Library) to the Lansing Marriott Hotel, one block north of the East Lansing campus. It also picks up passengers at the Kensington Hotel by Briarwood. Tickets are about \$15 each way. The website for more information is <http://www.michiganflyer.com/>

News from the Liberia Task Force

Friends,

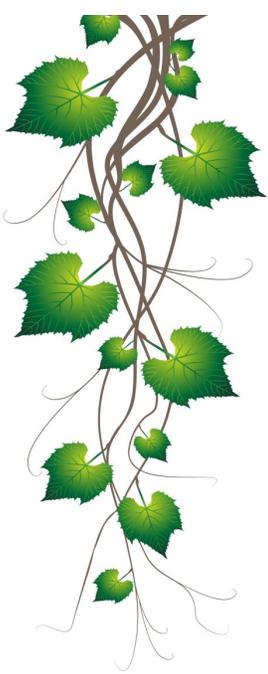
My travel partner, Patti Yerke from South Lyon UMC, and I are hoping to organize a VIM for Nov/Dec/Jan – please let us know if you are interested!

Belleville UMC and Oak Grove UMC have donated a big, varied and wonderful selection of heirloom seeds for donation to JDT. Rev Paula Timm and Oak Grove even included a type of vine that is described as “good for baskets.” How excellent! These will be carried to Liberia via the East Ohio Conference group that we had planned to travel with; they will get them to Mary Zigbuo and thus to JDT. East Ohio is also carrying cash donations from the Ann Arbor District to pay for midwife/birthing kits that will be handed out at the next training on April 4, and cash for school supplies.

I also want to specifically mention Milford UMC, which is the newest AAD congregation to participate in JDT fundraising. Mary Zigbuo’s current missionary newsletter is an excellent report. Contact me for an email copy.

Together with the Liberians, and in the name of the Lord, great things are happening!

Edie Wiarda, ewiarda@mmtc.org



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You are invited to an Informational Meeting about the Vital Church Initiative (VCI)

When: June 16 from 7-8:30pm

Where: Ann Arbor West Side Church

Who: Gary Step, Director of Congregational Excellence

We believe that it is an exciting time to be in ministry together, however, many of our churches have either flat-lined in growth or are seeing a slow decay of their current attendance. The Vital Church Initiative (VCI) is a process for transforming existing congregations in exciting ways. VCI includes a developmental process for both larger and smaller congregations. Phase I is a voluntary, nine-month, small-group, continuous learning community of peers, in-depth reading, and mutual support for pastors and laity teams together. Our goal is to leave no one out who wants to be a part of this. I also know that God's timing is perfect and that there is a "season" for each of us. We are seeing the Holy Spirit beginning to move in churches that have been open to taking risks and trying new things all for the sake of the Mission for Jesus Christ. All churches are welcome to attend. I hope to see you there!

Working with People with Disabilities

People with disabilities constitute our nation's largest minority group. It's also the most inclusive: all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic levels are represented. And this group is one that anyone can join, at any time: at birth, in a split second through an accident or illness, or during the aging process. Please join us for a workshop at West Side UMC, 700 S. Seventh St., Ann Arbor. Contact: 734-663-4164, westside-umc.org. on Saturday, May 14, 9:00 am–1:00 pm. Our workshop leader, Mary McCully, has a Master's Degree from EMU in disabilities and almost 40 years of experience working with people with various types of disabilities. All are welcome. Suggested donation: \$10. A light lunch will be served. Cohosted by West Side & Ann Arbor First United Methodist Women.

Security and Houses of Worship

The Novi Department of Public Safety will be hosting a seminar on Security and Houses of Worship on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Sgt. Patrick Fanning of the Novi Police Department has arranged the seminar on safety. We are extremely grateful to the Department of Public Safety for taking the time to put it together for us.

Bring a handful of people from your faith community to attend. Please RSVP to me with your numbers by April 13 so Sgt. Fanning can prepare handouts for each participant. I know that this is a busy week but I hope that you will find the time to spread the invitation to your congregations and find representatives to attend.

For registration, contact Rev. June Marshall Smith at junesmith48124@yahoo.com.

UMW Prayer Brunch

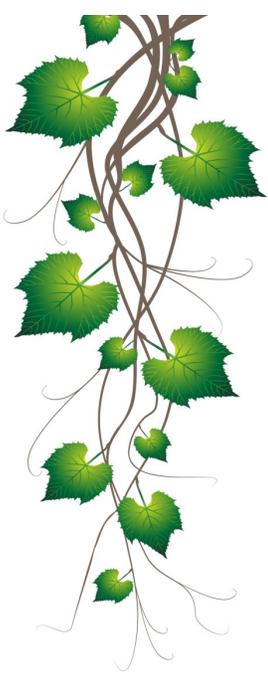
April 9, 2016 at Saline FUMC

Guest Speaker, Rev. Beth Librande

Topic - Spring Cleaning: Let's get rid of some of the junk that is blocking our happiness in the Lord.

Registration \$12, after March 27th: \$15

Questions please contact: Carol Gorham at 734.904.5312 email bcgorham@umich.edu



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Golden Cross Sunday!

The Conference has selected Sunday June 5, 2016 as Golden Cross Sunday, but your congregation can celebrate it on the Sunday of your choice.

Golden Cross Sunday provides an offering opportunity to support:
camperships for summer camp,
children who have been abused or neglected, and
seniors who have outlived their savings.

The organizations represented are:

United Methodist Outdoor and Retreat Ministries,
Methodist Children's Home Society, and
United Methodist Retirement Communities.

You can help promote Golden Cross Sunday by distributing offering envelopes, placing an insert in your bulletin, and/or including information in your monthly newsletter.

To download bulletin inserts or make a Golden Cross donation online, please visit <http://umcamping.org>

To request Golden Cross offering envelopes, please contact Amy Craig, UMRC Foundation Office Manager, at 734-433-1000 ext. 7502 or by e-mail at acraig@umrc.com.

Thank you very much for your support of these ministries and the vulnerable populations they serve. For more information, please contact:

Lisa French, United Methodist Retirement Communities (UMRC) Foundation,
734-433-1000 ext. 7426, lfrench@umrc.com

Brooke Adams, Methodist Children's Home Society, 313-531-9464,
badams@mchsmi.org

George Ayoub, United Methodist Outdoor & Retreat Ministries, 888-217-1905 ext. 1229, georgea@wmcumc.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Gloria Downing
 - 2 Jim & Susan Walker
 - 5 Ian Boley
 - 10 Jan Harris
 - 11 Theresa Cochran
 - 11 June Marshall Smith
 - 11 Ruth Smith
 - 11 Brittany Smith
 - 13 Cathy Butson
 - 19 Reed & Juliana Swanson
 - 23 Loretta Job
 - 23 Lawson Crane
 - 23 Michelle Walkup
 - 24 Sharon Miller
-

Help for the Flint Water Crisis

Hello Friends,

We are in need of serious Volunteers on a regular basis:

Every **Monday and Wednesday** at 1:00 PM, we have full semi-loads of water delivered and distributed at Calvary UMC, 2111 Flushing Rd., Flint, 48504.

Every **Thursday** around 11:30 AM we have 10 skids of water delivered and distributed at Asbury UMC 1653 Davison Rd., Flint, 48506

We need volunteers to help. Please give this your consideration.

Thanks,

Pete Plum, Crossroads District : Flint Water Crisis Relief Coordinator

Cell: [810-240-7531](tel:810-240-7531) or plum@miareaumc.org

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
