

The Arbor Vine

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

FEBRUARY 2016

What can we do to help with the Flint water crisis?

Bishop Kiesey writes:

I am calling on all United Methodists in the State of Michigan to respond in the following ways:

- 1) Earnestly and fervently pray for the people of Flint and for all our elected officials.
- 2) Offer your time, talents and presence. The opportunities to serve in Flint are developing day-by-day and will continue for the foreseeable future. I encourage you to contact Pete Plum, Crossroads District Emergency Water Crisis Coordinator plum@detroitconference.org to offer your assistance.
- 3) Designate a Sunday between now and Easter when your congregation will receive an offering for the people of Flint. Gifts from individuals, small groups, congregations and other organizations and agencies will enable continued short-term assistance and lay the foundation for a long-term response.

All donations for the Flint Water Crisis can be sent to:

Detroit Conference Treasurer's Office

1309 N. Ballenger Hwy, Suite 1 Flint, MI 48504

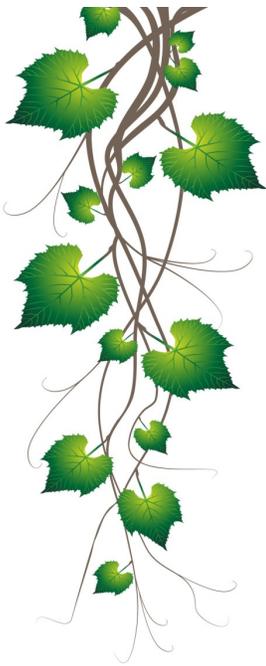
Checks made payable to "Detroit Conference"

with " #0918 (Crossroads District Water Response)" in the memo line.

We are a generous people and I thank you in advance for your gifts.

This appeal is just a beginning.

Our work continues. May we, Michigan United Methodists, continue to be a source of hope, a voice for justice, and a presence of compassion.



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DISTRICT NOTICES

ADDITIONS TO THE ANN ARBOR DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Helen Jeanne Doane lives 801 W. Middle St., Apt. 361, Saline MI
734-330-3931

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.

DUNDEE UMC SEEKS PART-TIME DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

The Dundee church is looking for a person with great communication skills for 6-12th grade programming. Contact Cindy Tessmer at cptessmer@gmail.com.

YOUTH LAY SERVANT WEEKEND, HOSTED BY CROSSROADS DISTRICT

FEB 5TH 6:00PM-FEB 7TH 4:30PM 2016, SEYMOUR LAKE UMC

YLS Weekend is a powerful and wonderful opportunity to enrich and encourage our youth to take the next step in their personal faith journey. \$75 fee.

Contact – Brian Kelley – 810-348-2919 for questions and details.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Encourage your church or group to participate in the Who is My Neighbor? 6 week Spanish Language Study. The study is great for preparation for mission trips. The teacher's book, with a how-to guide and the student books are available to purchase at Cokesbury. Email Sonya Luna, at sluna@detroitconference.org to sign-up.

Leadership Training Day

Saturday Feb 27, 2016 at First UMC of Howell

Excellent workshops. Brochures have been sent to your church.

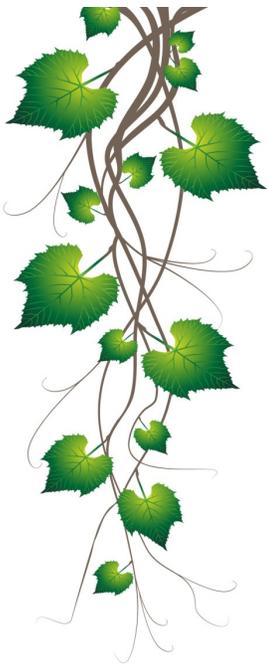
The pastor's participation is appreciated, attendance is expected. All are welcome.

Lay Servant Training

Saturday, March 5 and Saturday, March 19

Come for the best lay servant program in the Conference.

Brochures have been sent to your church.



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Spaw's Paws

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

MYSTERY, IT'S HARD TO UNDERSTAND

The story is told of two beggars standing outside the gates of a mansion house. They are seeking to enter and beg for alms. In front of the gate is a huge, ferocious, growling watchdog. The two beggars hesitate, fearful of what the dog might do. "Go ahead, one encourages the other. "See there, the dog is barking but is also wagging his tail. Go on in!" The other replies, "That's my problem. I don't know which end to believe!"

Each one of us is a wonderful mystery to the other: a mystery of joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, strange hurts and even stranger ecstasies and that is why we must remain open to the possibilities of others that lay often hidden beneath the surface -- friend and foe alike. Often we find ourselves existing around the fringes of life's arena, watching the contradictory signs: rejection and reconciliation; destruction and healing; despair and hopefulness; violence and peace. And we wonder which end to believe.

"Follow me!" says our Lord Jesus Christ. "Concentrate on me," says the Lord. "Stand and look with childlike wonderment!", says Jesus. Einstein once said, "The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious." Stand back and look and concentrate on the mystery, says the Lord—the mystery, which is God and His grand design for the ultimate fulfillment of His creation.

As we approach the Lenten Season (Beginning Wednesday Feb. 10th Ash Wednesday) my prayer for all of us is to discern which end to believe. My hope for the upcoming Lenten Season is that we might all have a new appreciation for the mystery in life and the certainty of Jesus Christ and His Lordship.

In this Lenten Season, listen as Christ calls us to follow Him in the spirit of wonder, childlike trust, and hopefulness. Ours is to follow the awesome mystery miracle-worker who turned water into wine, fed thousands with a few fish and a few crumbs, who cured lepers instantaneously, who gave sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf. Ours is to follow the awesome miracle-worker as did those early followers, who left everything to answer His call and try with childlike faith to appreciate the mystery.

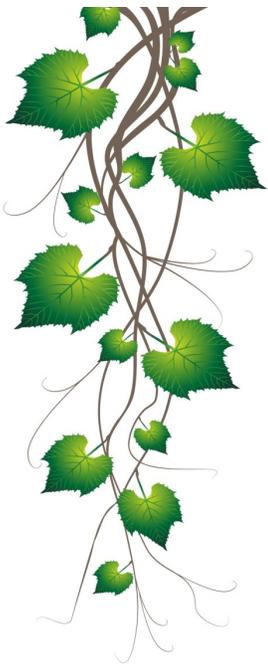
ANSWERING HIS CALL,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "mark".

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.

Looking forward to greeting you on Saturday February 28th in Howell for our Leadership Training Day. Your participation is appreciated, your attendance is expected.

Note: the year end High Five reports are due by February first.



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.

Detroit Annual Conference and West Michigan Conference will meet during the same time period. Business sessions will be separate, but there will be joint sessions for worship and programming workshops.

There will be a website dedicated to news about Annual Conference. It is <http://2016.michiganumc.org>. The website is not finished at this time, but it will hold the answers to many questions about the event.

There will also be email updates for everyone who registers for Annual Conference. Registration begins on March 28. Registration will be done online. They will take registrations at the door, but be prepared to wait in line.

Design Team Listening Tour

The Design Team has been tasked with the work of creating a new Michigan Area Annual Conference that would comprise the entire state. They are hosting a series of Listening Sessions that are open to all who are interested and wish to offer input, raise questions, and share concerns. The next sessions will be held at:

Thursday, Feb 18, 7:00-9:00 pm at Southfield Hope UMC
6275 Northwestern Hwy, Southfield, MI 48076, 248-356-1020

Monday, Feb 29, 7:00-9:00 pm at First UMC of Kalamazoo
212 South Park St, Kalamazoo MI 49007 269-381-6340

If the public schools in that city are closed because of the weather, the session will be canceled.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 1 Joel Walther	Feb 22 Doug Paterson
Feb 6 Deborah Zender	Feb 22 Kyungran Cho
Feb 7 Taek Kim	Feb 22 Paula Timm
Feb 10 Gloria & Earl Downing	Feb 23 Tom Macaulay
Feb 12 Shelley Weatherup	Feb 23 Rochelle Miller
Feb 12 Larry Job	Feb 24 Pete Harris
Feb 12 Anna Moon	Feb 27 Margot Cooley
Feb 15 Mark Zender	Feb 27 Nancy Wyllys
Feb 17 Andy Lee	

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
