

The Arbor Vine

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

September 2014

Come for good fellowship and a good meal

Ann Arbor District Annual Meeting

Monday, October 13 at Dexter UMC,

7643 Huron River Drive, Dexter MI

Gathering at 6:00 p.m., Meal at 6:30 p.m., Meeting to follow.

A note from the District Superintendent:

Each church should be represented at this meeting.

Each pastor must contact the District Office if she/he cannot attend. Your participation is appreciated. Your attendance is expected.

Please reserve my space for the district annual meeting on October 13.

Name _____ Email _____

Please reserve _____ persons at \$12.00 each = _____

Do you wish a vegetarian meal? (Please mention the vegetarian meal at the door) Yes No

Meeting only (no meal, no cost) _____

Reserve by October 9. Make checks payable to Dexter UMC

Mail your check and this form to:

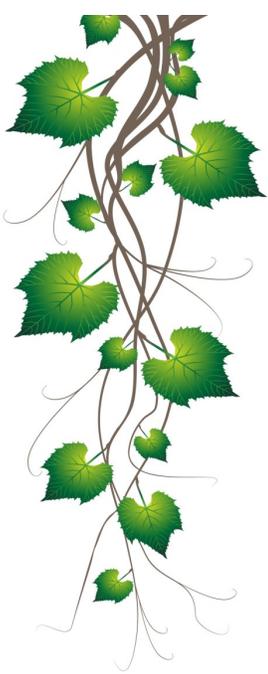
Dexter United Methodist Church, 7643 Huron River Drive, Dexter MI 48130

Name(s) _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Church _____



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DISTRICT NOTICES

MICHIGAN AREA EPISCOPAL CENTER OPEN HOUSE

The Bishop's office and the Episcopal office are moving to a new location at 1011 Northcrest Rd. in Lansing 48906. On September 7, from 3:00-5:00, all are invited to an open house at the new Episcopal Center. ---Moved

SEVEN UNITED METHODIST SITES TO VISIT

World travelers may seek out pyramids, cathedrals and safari parks, but United Methodists have destinations across the globe that hold their own allure. See: <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/seven-sites-every-united-methodist-should-see>

SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Faith Communities Task Force of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention is developing a "tool kit" of resources for congregations for September's "Your Life Matters!" Sabbath for Suicide Prevention. The proposed Sabbath date is Sept 12-14, 2014 to coincide annually with World Suicide Prevention Day, Sept 10. For more information visit <http://actionallianceforsuicideprevention.org>

COACH TRAINING ENHANCES LEADERS' EFFECTIVENESS

Basic Coach Training is designed to equip pastors and church leaders with basic coaching skills. This training will also prepare ministry leaders to effectively coach each other among their peers. A two-day training session led by Naomi García, Paul Melrose and Dirk Elliott will be held at Fenton United Methodist Church (119 S. Leroy St., Fenton, 810-629-2132) on September 8 and 9.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY INFORMATION

The Dawn Farm Education Series is a FREE annual series providing helpful, hopeful, practical information about chemical dependency, recovery, family concerns and related issues. The Education Series is designed to reduce the misinformation, secrecy, shame and stigma that prevent people with addiction and their families from *getting help* and *getting well*, and to help create a community culture that supports recovery. <http://dawnfarm.org/programs/education-series/>

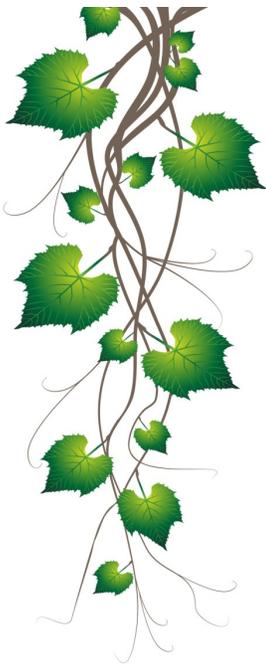
REV. SHERRY PARKER TO SPEAK

Rev. Dr. Sherry Parker will present "The Roma of Europe" at Ann Arbor FUMC on Friday, September 12, 7:15 pm. Join us before the program for a potluck at 6:15 pm; table service and beverages provided. Location: FUMC Green Wood, 1001 Green Rd., Ann Arbor. Dr. Parker is the lead pastor at Brighton FUMC and was the Roma Study Leader at the UMW's 2013 School of Mission. Questions? Call 734-662-4536. All are invited. Hosted by the UMW of FUMC Ann Arbor.

UNITED METHODIST RURAL ADVOCATES

This organization of lay and clergy is holding its 2014 Legislative consultation in Portland Oregon from Sept 30 through Oct 3. They will plan the work and direction of UMRA for the next year, as they advocate for a community of people more than seven times larger than New York City. For more information contact Rev. Debbie Ketcham at 614-580-2382.

(continued on page 5)



Spaw's Paws

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

"COME TO THE MOUNTAIN TOP"

I can't believe that it is September already. It seems like just yesterday we were making plans for special Summer worship services, Mother's Day and Father's Day, Sunday School, the U.M. Women, our U.M. Men, our Youth mission Trip, Summer Bible Studies, the list could go on and on. God has blessed the Ann Arbor District with so many vital, growing and faithful congregations!

September is here and we are back to our full schedule of Bible studies, U.M. Men, U.M. Women, our Youth Program, Sunday School Program, our Music Program, meetings of committees, and many other all-church activities. So. . . Let me ask you a question. . . As we begin this new season, What is it that you hope will happen? What are you dreaming of? What are you searching for?

In a "Peanuts" cartoon in which little Lucy says to her baby brother, Linus, "I'll tell you something I've never told anyone before. Do you see that hill over there? Someday I'm going over that hill and find the answer to my dreams. Someday I'm going over that hill and find happiness and fulfillment. For me, all the answers to my life lie beyond those clouds and over the grassy sides of those hills."

Linus removes his thumb from his mouth, points towards the hill and says, "Perhaps there's another kid on the other side of the hill who is looking this way and thinking that all the answers lie on this side of the hill." Lucy thinks that one over for a long moment, then turns toward the hill and screams, "Forget it, kid!!!"

Our hopes, our dreams, and all that we are searching for can and will be found. But we don't need to look for them on either side of the hill. The answers are here on this mountaintop, His mountaintop, in our communities of faith that we call our church home. For in the worship experiences, all church events, programs, and committees, gatherings and celebrations, we experience the very presence of our Lord Jesus. May this new season bring you spiritual renewal, refreshment, and fulfillment. Be sure to invite a friend and share the Mountain Top experience.

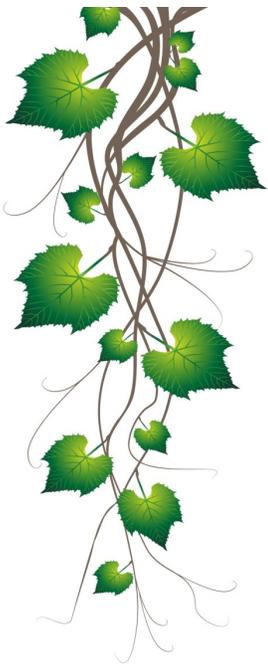
Ready To Go!

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

Rev. Mark E. Spaw

Church Conferences are Coming

See the District website for everything you need: www.AADistrict.org



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Circuit Rider Town and Country Retreat

This year the retreat is held November 3, 4, & 5. It is for the pastors and spouses serving the smaller single and multiple point churches. This year the topic is called:

**“Thick Skinned and Tender Hearted:
protecting yourself from wounds,
while keeping your heart open to love.”**

2nd Annual Ann Arbor District

United Methodist Men’s Hall of Fame Breakfast

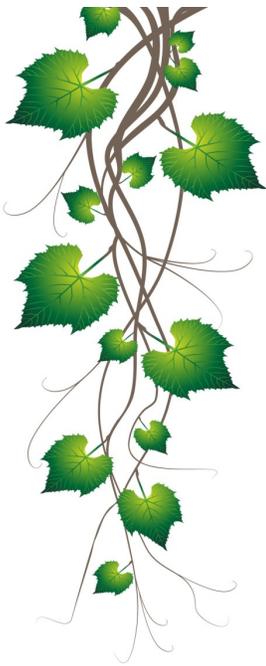
September 20, 2014 @ 9am

Howell First UMC

with special guest NBA Hall of Famer

David Thompson

Free Will Offering taken



YANKEE AIR MUSEUM

The Yankee Air Museum is holding an evening with Daniel Gabler, a missionary for United Methodist Aviation Ministries in Africa. Come to hear of his experiences on Sept 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Yankee Air Museum, 47884 D St, Belleville. Daniel and Rachel Gabler will be traveling in the district. To arrange time with them contact Roberta King 734-662-8020 or email garyandroberta@sbcglobal.net.

MISSIONARY TO ZAMBIA

Rev. Paul Webster, UMC Missionary to Zambia, will also be in the Ann Arbor District Sept 17 - 20 and Sept 25 - 27. To schedule Rev. Webster to speak at your church contact Roberta King 734-662-8020 or email garyandroberta@sbcglobal.net.

JOB OPENINGS

North Lake UMC seeks a Coordinator for Children and Youth, approximately 10 hours per week, \$150 per week. pastor@northlakeumc.org

The Red Cross needs a volunteer to be a blood transport driver, using their van. Contact Christina Besh at 734-971-5300.

COMMUNITY PARENTING FAIR

Manchester UMC is holding this fair on "Growing Parents, Growing Kids: Being the Best we can and Raising the Adults we Envision" on Saturday, Sept 6, 9:00-12:30. Contact the church at 734-428-8495.

REACH SUMMIT: EQUIPPING CHURCHES TO REACH MORE PEOPLE

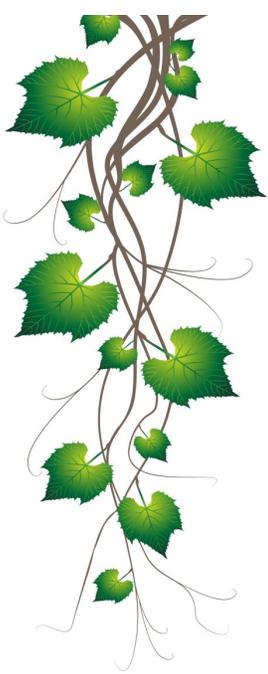
This seminar is designed to spark creativity, inspire leadership and transform the church. Information is online at REACHsummit.org.

DIVORCECARE AT DEXTER UMC

The Dexter church is offering a weekly group for divorced or separated people, running concurrently with a DivorceCare 4 Kids (K-8) and nursery. This is part of a national program of biblical teaching, with video seminars, group discussion, and personal study. Learn more at www.divorcecare.org or contact Linda Vander Haagen at linda-vh2@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Rich Burstall | 14 Don Weatherup |
| 2 Charlotte & Jim Simmons | 14 Ed Willobee |
| 2 Bri Desotell | 14 Brad & Aimee Luck |
| 4 Mary Hoff | 16 Kim & Christopher Momany |
| 4 Ardith Stewardson | 17 Megan Walther |
| 4 Lawson & Bev Crane | 20 Tonya Arnesen |
| 6 Jim Tuttle | 21 Bob & Rochelle Miller |
| 9 Sandy & Doug Olsen | 22 Julius Nagy |
| 9 Diane & Marc Vale | 23 Pauline Hart |
| 10 Edward Weiss Jr | 23 Monica & Brian William |
| 10 Susan & David Hurst | 24 Jim Walker |
| 13 Jonathan Carey | 25 Susan Walker |
| | 25 Nancy Lynn |
| | 27 Gloria & Tom Tarpley |



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Connectional Church Grant Application - at www.AADistrict.org

Connectional Church Grants offer churches the opportunity to apply for funds that can help your church with projects that are beyond the scope of the current budget. There is a total of \$10,000 available for all grants this year. The applications are now available for download from the District website: www.AADistrict.org. Churches that have grants approved will be notified two weeks prior to District Annual Meeting.

Connectional Church Grant Chair, Dennis Just

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. I am also working hard to get good updates on the Ebola situation in Liberia, and how we can best respond.

- Edie Wiarda, Ann Arbor District Liberia Task Force Chair

As one who has a heart for the people of Liberia we look forward with the hope that you will join us again this fall for the **2014 Liberia Partners Summit**. This year's follow up gathering will begin on *Thursday, November 13* with lunch at Noon and conclude the evening of *Friday, November 14* following a Celebration Banquet and worship. Saturday will be considered the travel day home. The site of the *Summit* will be: *Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 29887 West 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan, 48336 USA.*

The purpose of the 2014 event is to follow up on last year's *Summit* in which 70 persons from 9 US states, and leaders from Liberia met in Alton, Illinois. We can look forward to updates on all areas and hear about the networking that is taking place to bring partners together for joint trips and projects, among other topics.

Online registration is now open on the Detroit Conference website and will close October 31, 2014. Please register at: <https://detroit-reg.brtapp.com/LiberiaSummit2014>. The registration fee of \$90.00 may be paid on line or you may print the registration and mail it along with your check.

Bishop John Innis, Liberia Area, and Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey, Michigan Area, both plan on being in attendance. We also hope to be joined by representatives of the general church and key leaders from the Liberia Annual Conference.

Please save these dates in your schedule and plan to be a part of this important follow up conversation, and please invite *at least* one additional person to come to the event with you. By expanding the circle of participants, we can further enhance our mutual disciple making ministry and mission with our Liberian brothers and sisters.

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

The 2014 Liberia Partners Summit Logistics Team & Steering Committee