

# The Arbor Vine

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

**April 2015**

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## **2015 Annual Conference**

*Thursday - Sunday, May 14-19*

We invite you to the 47th annual session of the Detroit Annual Conference on the campus of Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan. Join the Clergy and Laity from more than 400 local churches and other leaders as we come together for worship, learning and discussion on how to GROW disciples.

Registration is at <https://detroit-reg.brtapp.com/DACAnnualConferenceSession201454>.

Registration continues until April 10. After this you will pay a late fee of \$30, (special meal tickets will not be available) until April 24. After April 24 you can only register in person at the site.

Legislation and preconference materials will be available April 1 at [www.DetroitConference.org](http://www.DetroitConference.org).

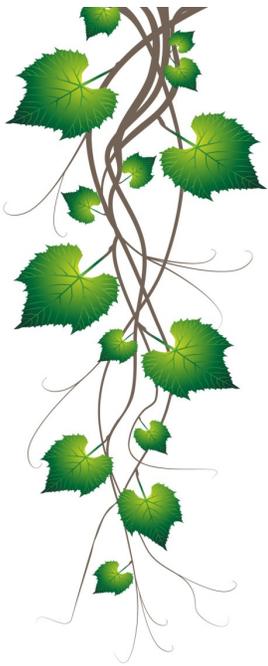
Each local church appoints voting representatives, but all others are welcome to register as visitors to the Conference.

***SAVE THE DATE!***

**Ann Arbor District Summer Picnic**

**Saturday, July 25**

**Tecumseh UMC**



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## DISTRICT NOTICES

### **WESLEY FESTIVAL - SING TO FIGHT MALARIA**

Methodist choirs from across the United States are being invited to Washington to join a festival chorus in a gala benefit concert to aid Imagine No Malaria at the Kennedy Center on May 23. Visit [www.wesleyfestival.org](http://www.wesleyfestival.org).

### **DO YOU NEED A COPIER FOR YOUR OFFICE?**

With the help of Diane Hatfield from Whitmore Lake Wesley, Konica Minolta has offered a 15-20% discount to our churches for their wide range of copiers and integrated software services. They will help you to analyze your needs and see what services and products will work for you. If you are interested, contact Carl Spaleny at 734-452-4249.

### **“THE FAMILY BIBLE” DISPLAY**

The Museum on Main Street at 500 N. Main in Ann Arbor is offering an exhibit through mid-April of family bibles from the early settlers of Washtenaw County. From Ann Allen’s New Testament to Anna Bach’s Tussy Mussy, this exhibit offers a glimpse into the past. It is available by appointment at 734-662-9092 or [wchs-500@ameritech.net](mailto:wchs-500@ameritech.net).

### **YOUR CHURCH WEBSITE: RETHINKING YOUR NEW FRONT DOOR**

This hands-on training from United Methodist Communications will show you how to build a website from the ground up. You will have access to the course for a year. \$89.99 United Methodist Communications: [training@esp.umcom.org](mailto:training@esp.umcom.org)

### **ADIRONDACK ADVENTURE CAMP**

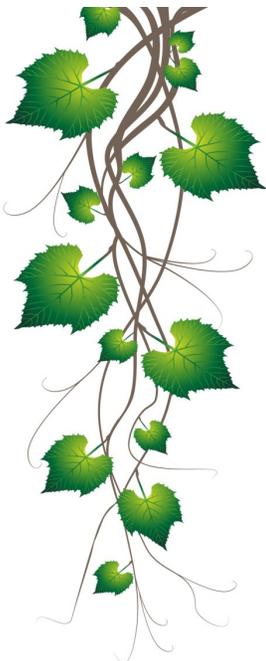
Adirondack Adventure Camp is a great camp experience for active adults who like to hike and spend time outdoors. There are two fun-filled adult camping sessions offered this summer, the first is July 26-August 1 and the second is August 2-8. There will be an orientation on Sunday, June 7 at 3 pm at Northlawn UMC (1157 Northlawn NW, GR 49505). Click [here](#) to view the 2015 summer camp brochure and registration form. Questions? Please contact Ken or Barb Jeltema. Ken's email: [kjelt2@gmail.com](mailto:kjelt2@gmail.com), Barb's email: [barbjeltema@yahoo.com](mailto:barbjeltema@yahoo.com) or call 616-363-6480.

### **JOB OPENING—MINISTER OF CONGREGATION CARE**

FUMC Ann Arbor is looking for a layperson or clergy person to serve as our Minister of Congregational Care. This person will focus on visitation of shut-ins and those who are ill as well as provide leadership to our lay care-giving ministries. A background in social work, nursing, or pastoral care is desired. This is a 15-20 hour per week, salaried position. Please send cover letter and resume to [recruit@fumc-a2.org](mailto:recruit@fumc-a2.org) by April 12, 2015.

### **MUSIC POSITIONS AVAILABLE AT PLYMOUTH FIRST UMC**

Three positions are open: Accompanist/Assistant Organist, Handbell Choir Director, and Children’s Choir Director. Contact Dr. Marcia Oyen at 734-453-5280.



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# Spaw's Paws

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

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## EMBRACING THE LAMB

There is a fascinating fable in which a peasant named Josef owns the finest lamb in all the land. . . Thanks to Josef's tender, loving care , the lamb had the richest, softest fleece anywhere around. In fact, the lamb became so famous around the countryside that a group of Josef's wicked neighbors decided to steal it. When Josef saw them coming, he quickly took the precious lamb in his arms, ran to his cabin, and bolted the door. Then he began shooting at the robbers. To throw them off balance he shot first from the west window, and then from the east. Back and forth he scurried, west to east, east to west. But each time he dashed across the cabin from one window to the other, he tripped and fell over the frightened lamb laying in the middle of the floor. So, finally, he open the door, kicked the lamb outside and west on with his shooting.

Here we are in the Easter season, the season of the precious Lamb of God. The precious Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, is in our midst! Our most prized possession, our "Pearl of Great Price," and we intend to hold on to it, to continue to prize it as the centerpiece of our lives. But despite our good intentions, we become distracted. We lose our sense of purpose. And the Precious Lamb of God is pushed aside—kicked out of our lives, so to speak. And we direct our full attention to the takes of life.

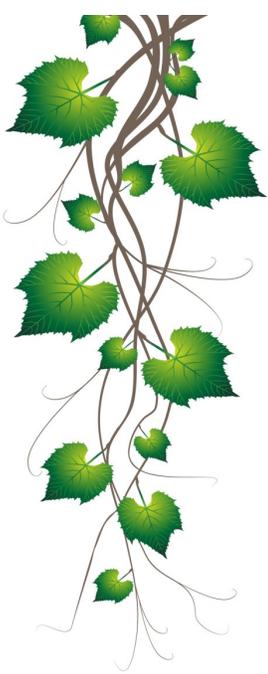
This Easter season let us regularly follow the customs of church going and church support. . . Both important and necessary to be sure. But let us remember that these are means, not ends. Our faith goal is union with God in Jesus Christ. Our faith goal is to reflect in oru Christian living the love of God and neighbor that we have in our hearts. Our faith goal is to go far beyond mere good intentions, to become givers of life, signs and symbols of the coming Kingdom of Love.

As we celebrate this Easter season with our many worship opportunities, activities, and spiritual journey seek the answer to the riddle of life. Find the remedy for our identity crisis. Find the cure for our anxiety about our life's meaning and purpose. This Easter know the fullness of the empty tomb. We have found the Messiah. "Behold the Lamb of God!"

Embracing the Lamb,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "mark". The letters are lowercase and written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rev. Mark E. Spaw, D.S.



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## ***Sunday, May 3, 2015 is Golden Cross Sunday***

Golden Cross Sunday provides an offering opportunity to support special needs camperships, 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.

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](mailto:acraig@umrc.com). May 3 is the traditional Golden Cross Sunday, but you are welcome to celebrate Golden Cross on the Sunday of your choice.

For more information, please contact:

Lisa French, UMRC Foundation, 734-433-1000 ext. 7426

Hannah Heebner, Methodist Children's Home Society, 313-531-7462

Tom Macaulay, United Methodist Outdoor & Retreat Ministries, 800-334-0544 ext. 1337, [tmacaulay@detroitconference.org](mailto:tmacaulay@detroitconference.org)

*That's right. Tom Macaulay, our previous DS, is now the director of Outdoor Ministries.*

## ***Native American Ministries Sunday - April 19***

Did you know that when our churches support Native American Ministries Sunday, we equip seminary students and empower Native American congregations to find fresh, new ways to minister to their communities with the love of Christ?

If your church has an interest in recognizing Native American Ministries Sunday, see the Pastors and Leaders book available at:

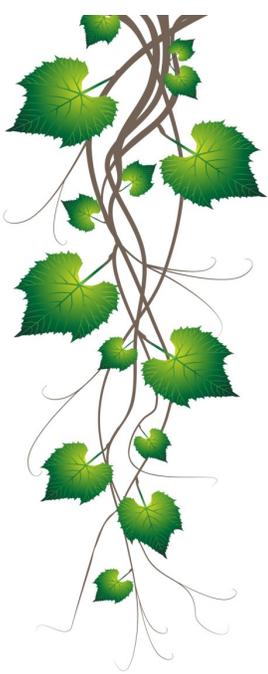
<http://www.umcsgiving.org/resource-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit>

## ***Spiritual Growth Retreat***

The Ann Arbor District United Methodist Women are hosting their Spiritual Growth Retreat on Friday and Saturday, April 17 & 18 at Judson Collins Retreat Center. The theme for the Retreat is "Soulful Living" and will be led by Deb Mantel. All women in the District are invited to attend. The Retreat will open at 6:00 p.m. on Friday and close around 3:00 p.m. Saturday. The cost for both days with overnight is \$50.00. To attend just Saturday's session or both sessions without staying overnight is \$30.00. This will be a great time to relax, be spiritually renewed, fellowship and have fun. Please join us. For any questions, please contact Vicky Engelbert, District President. E-mail address is [greemabert@comcast.net](mailto:greemabert@comcast.net); phone is 734-483-4660.

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Gloria Downing
- 2 Jim & Susan Walker
- 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
- 24 Sharon Miller
- 27 Tracy & Jerry Hunter



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## ***"Facing Violence: Domestic, Guns, and Human Trafficking"***

Register for "Keep Making Peace" at [msuwesley.org/kmp2015](http://msuwesley.org/kmp2015)

"Facing Violence: Domestic, Guns, and Human Trafficking" is the program for Saturday, April 11 at University United Methodist Church in East Lansing from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm.

Featured speakers are Bill Mefford - General Board of Church and Society, Yvonne Zimmerman - Methodist Theological School in Ohio, Linda Brundage - Michigan's Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense, and Chris Momany - Adrian College.

The fee is \$15 per person or \$30 per carload of three or more persons. Students are FREE. Pay at the event with cash or check. Lunch is included. Indicate if you want vegetarian.

Everyone is also invited to the 6:00 p.m. free Friday Night gathering with a Soup Supper at 6:30 and a 7:30 showing of "Not My Life, a documentary showing human trafficking on five continents.

## ***Living Faithfully in a Fragile World***

The Ann Arbor First and Ann Arbor West Side UMW's are presenting a workshop with Laura Hartman, author of *The Christian Consumer*. Be it fair trade coffee or foreign oil, our choices affect the well-being of humans around the globe, not to mention the natural world and, of course, ourselves. Consumption is a serious ethical issue. Come to the workshop at First United Methodist church at Green Wood, 1001 Green Rd, Ann Arbor.

**Saturday, May 9 9:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Advance registration encouraged at [www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org). \$10 fee. Light lunch provided. For more information call 734-663-4536.

## ***Jesus Seminar on the Road: First Century Jesus Movements***

April 17 & 18, 2015 at Ann Arbor First UMCA  
II sessions in our downtown sanctuary, \$75

The Jesus Seminar on the Road (JSOR) program of the Westar Institute brings scholars of the Jesus Seminar into conversation with interested people across North America and around the world. FUMC of Ann Arbor, Chelsea UMC, First Baptist of Ann Arbor, First Congregational, and Bethlehem United Church of Christ are pleased to announce this JSOR event.

Bernard Brandon Scott, Ph.D. and Joanna Dewey, Ph.D. are the featured presenters.

From Jesus to Constantine: From Disunity to Unity

The Many Faces of Early Christianity

Living in the Empire: Then and Now

To register or for more information: [www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org).

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of the United Methodist Church

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## **Return Service Requested**



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