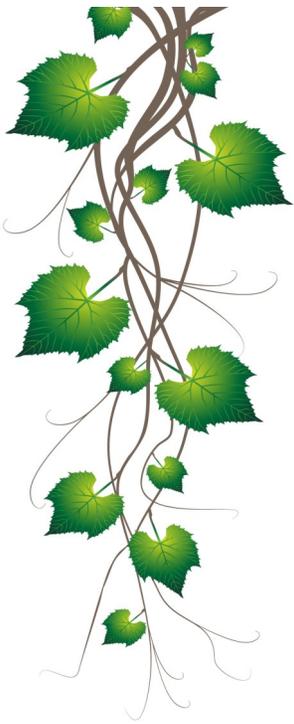


# The Arbor Vine

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



## April 2018

### PATTERN THE UNTHINKABLE



In one of the “Broom Hilda” comic strips, the little green witch is seen peering over a high cliff. Across the deep canyon is Gaylord, the buzzard...Gaylord is calling to Broom Hilda, “Come over here with me.” Broom Hilda thinks about Gaylord’s directive and then peers over the side of the cliff. “I can’t jump that far,” she says. Gaylord answers, “You’re defeating yourself with negative thinking.

I’m writing a book on the power of positive thought in which I prove you can do anything if you have the correct attitude.”

Broom Hilda surveys the huge chasm as Gaylord continues, “Tell yourself you can do it, then just do it.” Broom Hilda now builds up her courage and says, “Okay, here I come.” She takes a giant leap and falls deep into the canyon. Gaylord looks over the edge of the cliff as Broom Hilda disappears. Then he says to himself, “I think I’ll write a chapter on building up your leg muscles.”



In order to become the uniquely fulfilled, joy-filled persons God made us to be, we need to work at closing the gap between what we are doing and what we ought to be doing. We need to work at our ability to leap over the chasm that exists between the pattern for life God has designed for us in Jesus Christ and the pattern of our own construction. Which means, we need to work at building up our HEART muscles—our capacity to love straight from the heart.

The apostle Paul has written, “There are three things that last: FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE; and the greatest of these is LOVE. (I Corinthians 13:13) Paul is telling us that the essential thread on which our wholeness of life depends is LOVE—God’s Love. And oh, how we need it!

Because Christ is risen: The spirit of LOVE has come into the world, that empowers us to take that leap of faith. Because Christ is risen, the spirit of LOVE makes it possible for us who have not seen to believe and we can acknowledge in faith the supremacy of LOVE in our lives—with God and with one another.

Note This: In a world of LOVE, war and other forms of violence are unthinkable.

THINKING THE UNTHINKABLE,

*MARK*

Rev. Mark E. Spaw

Faith, Hope  
& Love, but the  
greatest of these is

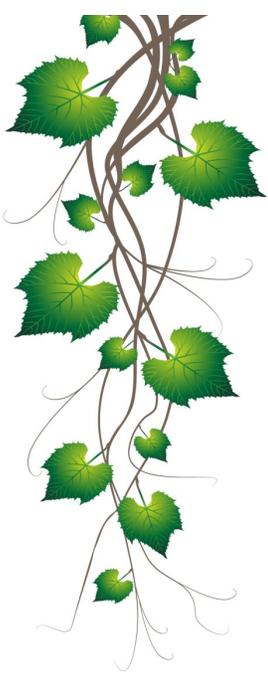
LOVE

1 Corinthians 13:13

BibleVerseImages.com

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Administrator: Dar McGee



# NEWSWORTHY AND IMPORTANT



## DISTRICT EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED

The district office email address has changed. Please update your records and send all district email to [dmcgee@michiganumc.org](mailto:dmcgee@michiganumc.org).

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP UPDATES: EZRA (PRIOR TO JUNE 1)

Local churches it is **vitaly important** to update your leadership in Ezra prior to June 1! As we make the changes to become one Michigan Conference, having accurate leadership data is essential. At the very least, please make sure the positions below are correctly entered and with contact info:

- **SPRC (or Governance) chair**
- **Treasurer**
- **Lay Member(s) to AC**
- **Lay Leader**
- **Trustee chair**
- **Ad Bd/Council chair**
- **Financial Secretary**
- **Mission chair**
- **Christian Education chair**
- **Church Staff (all applicable positions)**
- **Camping Coordinator**



If you need help, there are resources below to use or contact Dar in the District Office at [dmcgee@michiganumc.org](mailto:dmcgee@michiganumc.org). To view each resource, highlight each line, right click, right click again on open hyperlink.

- [Watch Screencast](#)
- [Ezra Dashboard Users Manual](#)
- [Ezra Role Glossary](#)
- [Ezra Leadership Positions Glossary](#)
- [Ezra Login](#)

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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

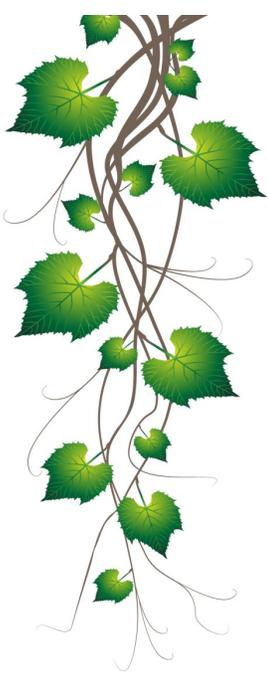
## ORGANIZATIONAL CONFERENCE—APRIL 27 AT 6:30 PM

There's a Friday night celebration of the coming together of the Albion and Ann Arbor districts. The event will be led by Rev. Elizabeth Hill, the incoming District Superintendent. Rev. Dale Miller (current Albion District DS) and Rev. Mark Spaw will also be part of this celebration. We will fellowship with others, choose the name of our new district (see article below) and discuss and choose our district officers and leaders and set the budget. The evening will be hosted by Jackson First UMC located at 275 West Michigan Avenue in Jackson. The church is on West Michigan Avenue but for easiest access to the entrance, park in the lot off of Cortland Street, which is behind the church.



## ALBION DISTRICT-ANN ARBOR DISTRICT-DISTRICT 8. WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Some of the suggestions we have received include Sauk Trail, Grand River Huron, Inland Lakes, Huron Watershed. Take a look at the boundary lines, counties, the shape of the mitten (or hand) and offer a suggestion. Go to [aadistrictg.org](http://aadistrictg.org) and click on District Boundaries Report. Send suggestions to Dar McGee at [dmcgee@michiganumc.org](mailto:dmcgee@michiganumc.org)



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## What's Happening in the Mitten

### REGISTER NOW FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

Members of the Michigan Conference are preparing to gather for the 2018 Michigan Annual Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort & Spa, May 31-June 3.

“ENGAGE with” will bring together these two annual conferences in Northern Michigan for a historic gathering of worship and fellowship. Historic because this will be the last time the Detroit Annual Conference and the West Michigan Annual Conference will meet as separate organizations. On January 1, 2019 life together as The Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church begins. Information and registration can be found at [2018.michiganumc.org](http://2018.michiganumc.org).



### PARSONAGE GUIDELINES

In the back of the Book of Discipline there are several paragraphs listed under Parsonage which provide guidelines when a local church provides a parsonage for the clergy person appointed to their church. There is also a printable guideline available on the district web site. Everything from doing a yearly walkthrough to number of bathrooms to providing housing that is adequate for the clergy person. To have information about the parsonage readily available it has been suggested that keeping a large binder in the parsonage with the receipts, owner manuals, trustee contact information, map of the area, etc., is very helpful.



### NEW BEGINNINGS SEMINAR

If your church will have a new pastor appointed please plan to attend one of the New Beginnings Seminars for a healthier transition. The dates are May 17 or 19 at Rochester: St. Paul's UMC. The brochure contains details about which session you should attend as well as registration information. Please go to [aadistrict.org](http://aadistrict.org).

### REV. KEITH BOYETTE VISITS MICHIGAN MAY 3-6

Rev. Boyette is the president of the Wesleyan Covenant Association (WCA) and a clergy member of the Virginia Annual Conference. He has 20 years experience as a



church planter and has also served on the Judicial Council. He will be at several locations to explain the WCA and why it is needed. This is a great opportunity for all United Methodist laity and clergy to find out about the WCA first hand, learn about the state of the United Methodist Church and make some new friends.

Please review the meeting schedule below and plan now to come. An all-state mailing to churches and clergy is coming but we invite you to forward this e-mail to all your UM friends in Michigan! For more info contact Tom Anderson at [tanderson@humc.us](mailto:tanderson@humc.us) and visit [www.wesleyancovenant.org](http://www.wesleyancovenant.org). Schedule includes:

- May 3, 10:30 am Dexter United Methodist Church
- May 3, 3:00 pm Jackson First United Methodist
- May 4, 10:00 am Michigan Ministry Center--Lansing
- May 4, 3:00 pm Clare United Methodist Church
- May 5, 10:00 am Flint: Bethel United Methodist Church
- May 6, 11:00 am Worship at Fraser: Christ UMC

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of the United Methodist Church  
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**Return Service Requested**



**The Arbor Vine**

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